Vol 9 **The War Illustrated** N° 214

SIXPENCE — Edited by Sir John Hammerton — AUGUST 31, 1945.

SYMBOL OF CHINA'S RESURGENCE is this sentry at Kunming, capital of the Chinese border province of Yunnan, where the Burma Road from Lashio joins the highway to Chungking. Following the building of the Ledo Road and the re-opening of the Burma Road, the first convoy reached Kunming on February 1, 1945. Since then the famous roadway has streamed with supplies for Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's armies, reported on August 19, five days after Japan's surrender, to have entered Canton, chief commercial city (after Hong Kong) of southern China.

Photo, Pictorial Press

Russia Smashes In to End the War With Japan

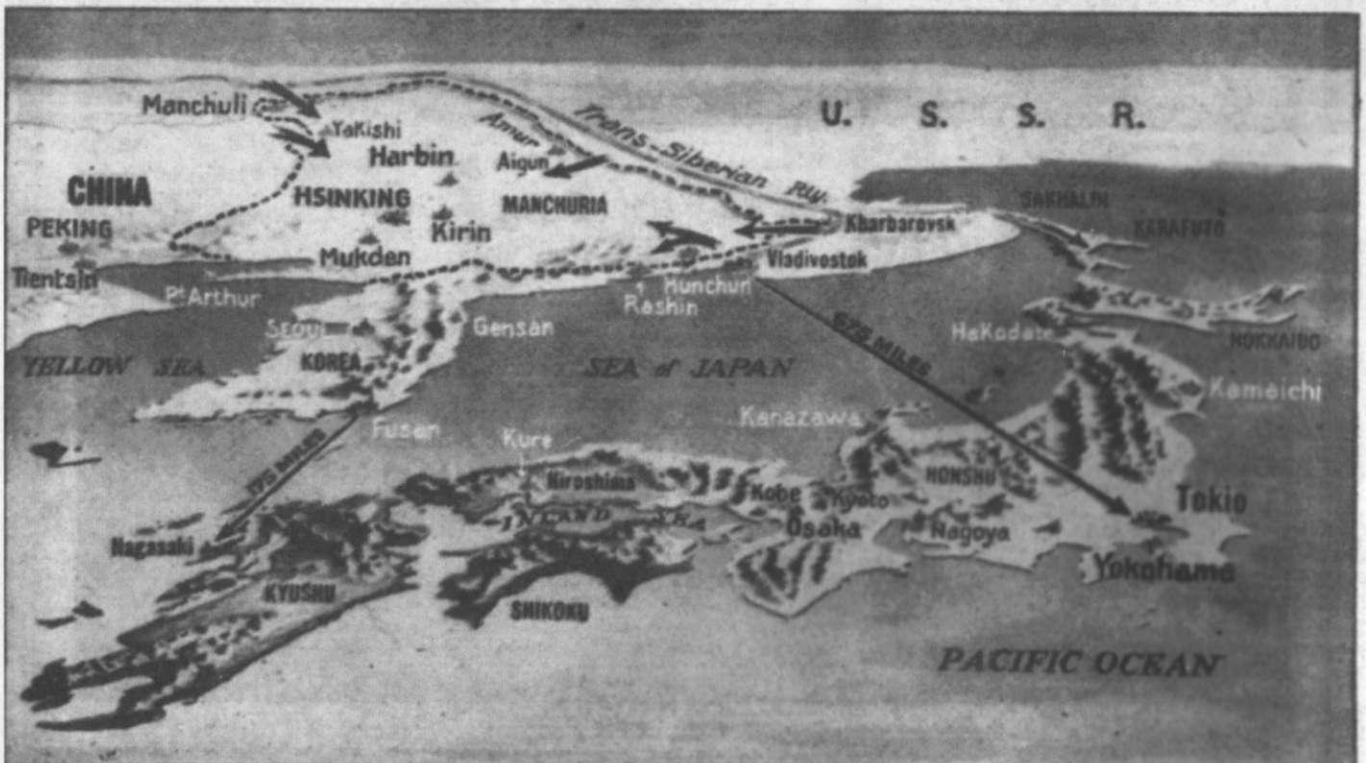
SOVIET Russia declared war on Japan on August 8, 1945, when Mr. Molotov, Russian Foreign Commissar, informed Mr. Sato, the Japanese Ambassador to Moscow, that the declaration would come into operation the following day. Mr. Molotov's words were terse. Indicating that after the rout and capitulation of Hitlerite Germany Japan remained "the only great Power insisting on the continuation of the war," he declared that since the Nippon Government had refused the Allies' unconditional surrender terms issued from Potsdam on July 26 (see page 264), the U.S.S.R. had accepted the Allied proposal that they (the Soviets) should declare war on Japan. "The Soviet Government," said Mr. Molotov, "considers that such a policy on its part is the only means capable of bringing peace nearer, freeing the people from further sacrifices and sufferings, and giving the Japanese people the opportunity to avoid those dangers and destructions which have been suffered by Germany after her refusal to capitulate unconditionally." Japan's fate was sealed.

NOATAKE SATO, Japanese Ambassador to Moscow, to whom Mr. Molotov handed the U.S.S.R.'s declaration of war. *Photo, Associated Press*

THUS ended the uneasy truce between Russia and Japan as set forth in the Soviet-Japanese Pact of April 1941 and denounced by the Russians in April 1945 when Mr. Molotov stated that Japan had been helping Germany and was, moreover, at war with Russia's British and U.S. Allies. In his declaration of war, Mr. Molotov revealed that the Japanese had sought Russian mediation in the middle of June this year—in the form of a personal message from the Emperor, the text of which was made known to the British and U.S. leaders at Potsdam.

THE Russians lost no time in executing their declaration. On the evening of August 9—exactly 24 hours after Mr. Molotov had seen the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow—Generalissimo Stalin issued his first official communiqué on the progress of the war. It stated that the Manchurian frontier had been crossed in many places, the River Amur forced, and several places, including the important railway town of Manchuli, captured; advances up to 14 miles were being made on a front of over 1,000 miles. Three days later was announced the Soviets' capture of the Korean port of Rashin. It was then reported from Moscow that the enemy had already lost Northern Manchuria from a strategic point of view and in many areas was completely disorganized.

IN a broadcast from Tokyo on August 10—four days after the fall of the first atomic bomb (see page 278)—the Japanese Government announced their readiness to accept the Allied ultimatum of July 26 on the understanding that it did not "prejudice the prerogatives of the Emperor." Next day the Big Four (Britain, the U.S., Russia and China) replied with the demand that the Emperor's authority to rule Japan should be subject to an Allied Supreme Commander, while the Emperor would be required to authorize the surrender terms needed to carry out the Potsdam ultimatum. On August 14 the Japanese finally surrendered.



BLASTED WITH ATOMIC BOMBS, held in powerful pincers gripped by the Soviets to the west and British and U.S. air and naval units to the south, the Japanese homeland (top) was faced with certain destruction when Russia declared war. As the perspective drawing (bottom) shows, only 675 air miles separate the Russian port of Vladivostok from the Japanese capital; while Japan's inland sea lay at the mercy of the Allied fleets. Black arrows indicate direction of Soviet thrusts.

Maps by courtesy of The Daily Express and The News Chronicle

Lt.-Gen. Sir Alan **CUNNINGHAM** (November 16, 1941).
Maj.-Gen. Neil M. **RITCHIE** (November 26, 1941).
General Sir Claude **AUCHINLECK** (June 25, 1942).
Lt.-Gen. Bernard **MONTGOMERY** (August 13, 1942).
Lt.-Gen. Sir Oliver **LEESE** (December 30, 1943).
Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard **McCREERY** (November 3, 1944).

With Our Armies Today

By MAJ.-GENERAL SIR CHARLES GWYNN K.C.B., D.S.O.

As was most right and proper the passing of the 8th Army did not escape general notice, in spite of the fact that the great achievements of the 2nd and 14th Armies had for a considerable time occupied a more conspicuous place in the limelight. While it would be invidious to compare the remarkable accomplishments of any of our armies, it is, however, fair to say that the 8th Army for the first time made the general public realize that an army could possess an individuality and develop an esprit de corps that deserved recognition.

That the 8th Army acquired those qualities to an unprecedented extent was probably due partly to the strange nature of the terrain in which it initially operated, and partly also to the fact that it was for a long period fighting as an independent force and was the sole Empire army in active employment at the time against the Axis. Its individuality was therefore a natural growth, though undoubtedly it was fostered by Field-Marshal Montgomery when he took command and deliberately invited public interest. His methods did not escape criticism, but it is now admitted even by the most critical that they produced valuable results, not only in his own army but by exciting a spirit of emulation in others.

OUR Special Debt of Gratitude to Wavell's Army of the Nile

The record of the 8th Army's achievements is too well known to need recapitulation, but I should like to draw attention to the special debt of gratitude we owe to it and to Wavell's Army of the Nile which began the good work. Incidentally, I prefer to look on the latter army as the child which grew up to be the 8th Army rather than as its parent, which is the relationship assigned to it in the brochure on the 8th Army's independent campaign issued by the Ministry of Information. Some troops fought in both armies, and the experience they gained of desert fighting and of the terrain in Cyrenaica in the earlier campaign was of immense value in later operations. Moreover, there was an obvious continuity in the development of the war in Libya. The primary task allotted to both armies was the defence of Alexandria and the Suez Canal—the core of our position in the Middle East—and in both cases offensive defence was adopted with success in spite of temporary reverses : one on a disastrous scale.

THE special debt we owe to the Army of the Nile is that despite appalling weakness in numbers and equipment it not only saved Egypt, but so completely and swiftly destroyed Graziani's Army that German intervention came too late to effect more than a partial restoration of the situation. The Italians were rushed off their feet and their morale shattered beyond recovery by a bold and brilliant offensive. The feeling of relief and encouragement inspired by Wavell's victories at a time when it was sorely needed should never be forgotten, and it should be realized that the ulcer had been started which, as it spread, cost the Axis a limb and materially weakened the whole frame of the monster. Wavell had neither the men nor transport required for the exploitation of success beyond Cyrenaica, and, weakened by the diversion of troops to Greece, withdrawal to the frontier was inevitable when Rommel took the offensive. But Tobruk stood blocking his lines of communication and the defence had not broken down.

When the 8th Army was formed on November 16, 1941, the defence of Egypt remained to be carried out by an offensive intended to remove finally the threat of Rommel's Afrika Korps. A substantial victory was gained after heavy fighting, and Tobruk was relieved. But although reinforced and re-equipped the Army was not yet strong enough to achieve its object decisively. Rommel again emerged from El Agheila and recovered much ground. For a time the opponents stood facing each other at El Gazala, each steadily preparing to resume the offensive.

8th ARMY FLASH

ROMMEL struck first, and after a swaying battle his weight of metal told. The disaster that resulted was the more serious because of the desperate situation on the Russian front ; but Auchinleck's exhausted and depleted army, aided by reinforcements, notably the magnificent New Zealand Division, rallied after its long retreat to cover Alexandria, and this time it was Rommel who was not strong enough to attain his main object. The 8th Army, in spite of the undeniable defeat it had suffered, staved off disaster on a scale which might have affected the final issue of the War.

Time was thus gained and reinforcements poured in, though at the expense of our forces in the Far East. America parted with some of her newest tanks to ensure that the disparity in weight of armament should be eliminated. By the time Rommel was ready to start again the 8th Army, though not yet prepared for offensive battle, had been re-organized under its new commanders, and was able to defeat him in a skilful defensive battle, which proved to be the decisive turning point. With his communications suffering from air and submarine attacks, Rommel had not fully recovered from defeat before the storm broke upon him at Alamein. Deserting his despised Italian allies and making full use of the mobility afforded by mechanical vehicles, he retreated precipitately and did not pause till he again took refuge at El Agheila. The safety of Egypt in a few days had been finally ensured, but at El Agheila the pursuit had also to pause till the port of Benghazi could be cleared sufficiently to relieve the strain on the 8th Army's long line of communication.

WHEN Rommel's Great Reputation For Invincibility Was Smashed

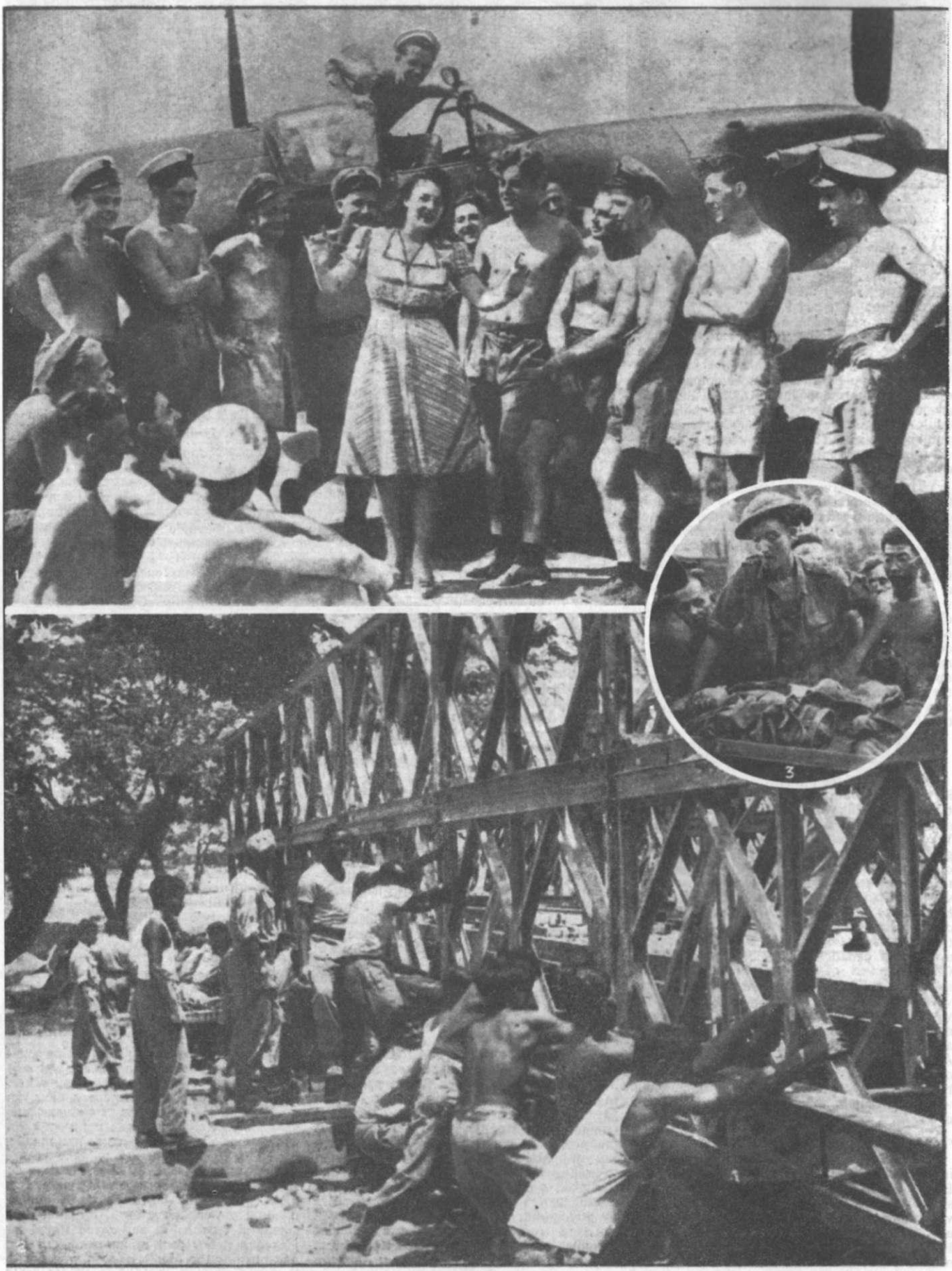
Before he could again be attacked in strength, when his open desert flank was threatened, Rommel resumed his retreat, using every delaying artifice. Pursuit was slowed down by this and by the ever-increasing problems of maintaining supplies, but it was maintained with a vigour which gave the enemy no chance of rallying to hold Tripoli. Tripoli was occupied, the Italians losing their last possession in Africa, and Rommel continued his retreat to join forces with General von Arnim in Tunisia.

Strictly speaking, the 8th Army's career as an independent force closed with the occupation of Tripoli ; for there it became part of Alexander's 18th Army Group. But in practice it continued to act independently until by notable victories it had driven Rommel's armies out of the formidable Mareth and Akarit positions and left them no alternative but to fall back on Von Arnim's stronghold in northern Tunisia. It is true that Rommel himself, a sick man, did not command in these battles, but by that time the bogy of his world-wide reputation for invincibility had been well and truly laid ; and that of the 8th Army and its commander had been equally well established.

For a short time the 8th Army had a hot competitor in the 1st Army, and credit may well be divided between them for the crowning victory which liquidated Rommel's and Von Arnim's combined armies. After that victory the 1st Army was dispersed before it had received the public recognition its great achievements deserved ; but the 8th Army went on to gather fresh laurels in Sicily and Italy, ending its career by being largely instrumental in bringing about the first German mass surrender in April, 1945.

IN these later campaigns the fighting was of a very different character and was often more severe and entailed even greater hardships than in the desert. Moreover, there were many changes in the Army's composition—valued divisions were transferred from it, and it absorbed elements of many nationalities. At times it was split up to take part in operations conducted by the American 5th Army, but whether operating united or divided its Army esprit de corps and individuality were never lost. Its great deeds stand on record. It had saved Egypt and played a major part in knocking out Italy and opening the Mediterranean, and not the least of its services was the development of co-operation with Air Arm and Royal Navy to a standard which was to serve as a model

'Stand Easy' at a Jungle Naval Air Station



BREAK-FOR-MUSIC at a British East Indies Fleet Air Station was made memorable to an enthusiastic audience of maintenance ratings—with a Seafire in the background—by radio singer Miss Paula Green (1). Other side of the picture of life "out there" is presented by the arrival of a wounded Jap (3) at a portable surgical hospital during our advance on Pinwe. Burmese sappers, working continuously for three days, hauled into position sections of a 174-ft. Bailey Bridge (2) across the Pegu Canal (see also illus page 271).

Photos, British Official

Union Jack Waves Beside the Flag of Austria

ROUNDING UP REMNANTS OF THE S.S. known to be hiding in the thickly-wooded mountains of south-east Austria, a patrol (1) of the 2nd Battalion London Irish Rifles, stationed at Toplitz See, probe for their quarry. In a mountainside fire-station they unearthed large quantities of ammunition which they loaded on to a waiting lorry (4). There was a big welcome for British troops in Vienna on July 30, 1945, when advanced units under the Senior Military Government officer, Brigadier Palmer, and including a company of the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, entered the city in preparation for taking-over its southern sections. Armoured cars swept past the famous Karlskirche (2).

Eighth Army troops on July 24 entered Graz, Austria's second city, also taking over from the Russians. Gen. C. E. Weir, C.B., D.S.O., Commander of the 46th Division (3), addressed the cheering population in the Haupt-Platz, the city's main square. A guard from the 70th Regiment of the Royal Artillery mounted in front of the City Hall drew a large crowd, as the Union Jack floated from a masthead alongside the red and white Austrian flag.

Photos, British Official

With Our Navies Today

By
FRANCIS E. McMURTRIE

Now that Japan has faced surrender, it is useful to survey the course of the war in the Far East. One of the most fortunate things in its incidence is that Germany and Japan never tried to synchronize their operations to an appreciable extent. Had Japan entered the conflict in 1940, when this country was in great difficulties owing to the defection of France and the simultaneous declaration of war by Italy, the situation would have been grave indeed. Nor was the United States then fully prepared, so recovery from such a disaster as Pearl Harbour would have been far more protracted.

In fact, Japan made her move too late. Moreover, her naval strategy in the Pacific was halting to a degree; which suggests that the Naval Staff in Tokyo never had a free hand. In all probability the theory that the Army had absolute control in this respect is a sound one. The long delay between the delivery of the initial blow at Pearl Harbour and the start of the combined naval and military expedition against Hawaii, which came to utter grief in the Battle of Midway, six months later, is inexplicable on any other grounds, however one regards it.

The Japanese fleet was frittered away in a series of more or less disconnected thrusts in the South-West Pacific; when at last the whole available force was assembled in a final effort in the Philippines in October 1944, the arrangements for concentration of the three fleets concerned were so faulty that each was defeated in turn, without being able to give support to the others. This miscarriage seems to bear the marks of Army inspiration, for the lessons of naval history, with which Japanese admirals profess to be well acquainted, contain ample warning against such grotesque folly.

Owing to shortage of suitable fast merchant vessels, the Japanese were forced to employ their destroyers as troop transports, a proceeding that resulted in heavy losses. Consequently in their later operations they were seriously distressed through lack of enough destroyers to provide a screen for their battleships and aircraft carriers, and to carry out the many other duties for which destroyers have become indispensable. There was an almost total neglect to make any effective use of the numerous submarines which the Japanese Navy possesses. These again were employed extensively for transporting reinforcements, supplies and ammunition to garrisons in Pacific islands which were otherwise completely cut off from succour.

This is not to belittle the magnificent recovery made by the United States Navy after the staggering shock of the Pearl Harbour onslaught, nor the brilliant strategy by which Fleet Admiral Nimitz wore down his adversaries until they were left to flounder helplessly, ignorant of where the next blow was likely to fall.

It will be interesting to see whether there are many Japanese ships of importance surviving when the formal surrender of all fighting material is made. Probably there are four or five battleships, all more or less disabled; two or three large aircraft carriers, with others building; a similar number of cruisers and a handful of destroyers, with a miscellaneous collection of coast defence ships, training vessels and small craft of all kinds. Most of these are likely to be found in the naval ports of Yokosuka, Kure and Sasebo, though some may be at Shanghai or Hongkong.

Possibility of Russian Claim to a Percentage of Jap Ships

It may be assumed that the Chinese will be able to take over some cruisers and destroyers to reconstitute their depleted fleet. The remnant of the Chinese Navy which was put out of action on the Lower Yangtse in 1937 and handed over to the quisling Government at Nankin by the Japanese, will also be restored to its rightful owners. Nor would it be surprising if the Soviet Government were to lay claim to a percentage of the Japanese vessels in compensation for the loss of the entire Russian Far Eastern fleet in the war of 1904-05. An ice-free naval base to supplement Vladivostok is another Russian ambition; it will be recalled that it was the occupation of Port Arthur for this purpose that led to the war with Japan 40 years ago. Other Soviet territorial claims that may be foreshadowed are the southern half of the island of Sakhalin and the chain of the Kurile Islands, stretching from the Kamchatka peninsula, eastern Siberia, to Hokkaido, which is Japan's northernmost island.

For a considerable time now the Allies will require to maintain a strong police force, comprising naval, military and air elements, in the Far East. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese will have to be evacuated from China, Manchuria and Korea, a process which may well take years to complete in view of the great destruction of enemy shipping which would otherwise have been available for the purpose. In any case, any merchant ships larger than coasting vessels will doubtless be taken away from Japan, so that, like Germany, she may be debarred from all ocean trade.

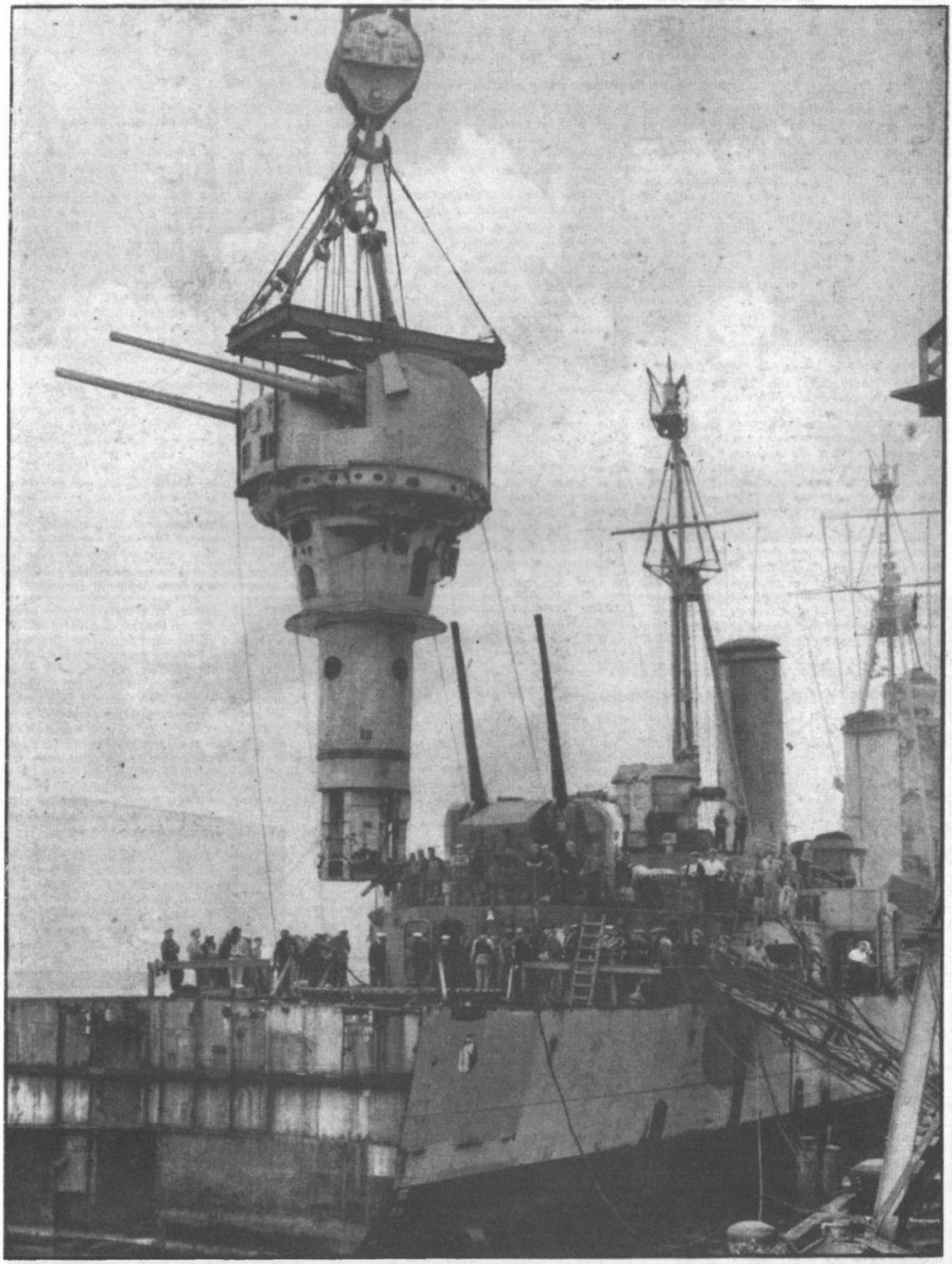
In pre-war days the British China Squadron was composed of a cruiser squadron, an aircraft carrier, a destroyer flotilla, a submarine flotilla and half-a-dozen sloops, together with a number of minelayers, minesweepers and gunboats of which the majority were stationed at the ports of Hongkong and Singapore. Presumably some such force will again assume responsibility of protecting British interests in the Far East when Japan has complied with the surrender requirements. It is abundantly clear that the Americans are determined to stand no nonsense about surrender. Admiral Halsey showed his hand in this connexion when on VJ day he signalled all ships: "It looks like the war is over, but if any enemy planes appear, shoot them down—in a friendly fashion."

From the illustration in the facing page it is possible to form some idea of the heavy damage sustained by H.M.S. Argonaut, a cruiser of about 5,500 tons, when she was hit by a salvo of torpedoes from a U-boat in the early part of 1943. It must have required extremely skilful seamanship to navigate her across the Atlantic with her bow and stern blown off. It is said that when she put in at Bermuda, on her way to Philadelphia, observers were unable to believe their eyes, and for some time failed to identify the ship in her truncated state. That her bulkheads should have held against the strain must be a source of pride to her builders, the Birkenhead firm of Cammell, Laird & Co. Ltd.

Though exceptional, such hazardous passages as that of the Argonaut are not unprecedented. Both in this war and the last there have been several cases of ships having their bows blown away, and reaching port without foundering. In one famous example, in 1916, H.M. destroyer Nubian lost her bow, and her sister ship Zulu her stern. The two halves were recovered and united, the single destroyer that remained being given the name of Zubian to signalize the fact. (See page 714, Vol. 8.) Quite recently a similar case occurred in the United States Navy. The destroyer escorts Holder and Menges were both damaged to the extent of requiring about 50 per cent of the structure of each to be renewed in dockyard. As in the case of the British destroyers mentioned above, the two portions were joined together, but the ship that survives in service is known as the Menges, as more of that vessel than of her consort is included in the union.

UNITS OF ADMIRAL HALSEY'S 3rd U.S. FLEET, off the Japanese coast on July 11, 1945 (top), steamed to within almost rifle range of their target and fired 16-in. and 18-in. shells. An observation plane stands ready on the deck of U.S.S. Massachusetts (bottom) as two other U.S. warships string out behind, one firing a broadside. PAGE 262 *Photos, Sport & General*

Naval Operation Gave Argonaut New Lease of Life



EXTRACTION OF A GIGANTIC 'TOOTH' from H.M.S. Argonaut: one of the after gun-turrets being lifted out complete with turntable and the trunk leading down to the magazine. In 1943 the cruiser had bow and stern, including rudder and two propellers, blown away by torpedoes from a U-boat. Her bulkheads stood the strain—great tribute to the soundness of her construction by Cammell, Laird & Co., and skilfully she was navigated across the Atlantic, steered by the two remaining propellers. Of her total length of 512 ft., 59 ft. at bow and 123 ft. at stern were replaced by the U.S. Navy Yard, Philadelphia. See also facing page.

Photo, U.S. Navy Official

Thoughts on the Peace of Potsdam

The Berlin Conference of 1945 will long be remembered as one of the red letter events in world history ; its importance outweighs that of the once celebrated Congress of Berlin (1878) as greatly as the mighty forces of this World War have surpassed the military and naval resources of what by comparison was a local affair. Our well-known contributor, HENRY BAERLEIN, who writes this article on the Conference, is a recognized authority on European politics, with intimate knowledge of the Balkans and Central European countries. **See also facing page.**

THE first thing that is obvious about the decisions arrived at by the Big Three at Potsdam is that they contain the beginnings of a constructive programme, instead of limiting themselves, as was done for the most part at previous conferences of these Great Powers, to a programme of destruction. Not that the destruction, root and branch, of Nazism is now neglected ; far from it. But for the first time the world is now given a positive vision of the Germany which is to emerge and survive, with freedom of political parties—certain democratic ones are indicated—and of trade unions, freedom of assembly and public discussion, freedom of Press and religion, with the re-creation, from the bottom, of freely elected authorities.

These various decisions are welcomed whole-heartedly and the Germans, apart from an irreconcilable minority, will themselves be glad enough to enjoy what the Nazi system utterly denied them. Democratic institutions have never had much of a chance in Germany. But the Germans are an intelligent people, and the plight in which their adherence to the Fuehrer principle has landed them may induce the majority to be very willing to give democracy a trial.

The Germans will recognize that the sanctions taken against them are inevitable ; they will not sulk on account of them. Thus the Potsdam decisions as regards Germany are to be applauded. Likewise the replacement of the European Advisory Commission by the Council of five Foreign Ministers with a permanent secretariat in London is admirably adapted to simplify the task of creating machinery for carrying on the work of reconstruction in our sorely tried Continent. It is a great thing that a common policy towards Germany has at last been clearly proclaimed.

IT will be noted that Britain and the United States have refrained from any official statement regarding the proposed frontiers of Poland in the west. This caution is not by any means due to a lack of generosity and a tenderness for Germany, but we and the Americans have wished to be assured that so wide an acquisition of territory as is envisaged will in fact increase Poland's strength and security. It is true that her birth-rate is higher than that of most other countries, but how will she be able to populate such extensive areas of East Prussia, Pomerania, Brandenburg and Silesia ?

Of course, Poland's own previous lands have suffered vastly from the German invasion, and if they are left, as it were, fallow for a time in order to recover, then many of the people there would be able to seek other pastures, particularly if the Government will not merely allocate so many acres to a worthy citizen but will provide the necessary assistance for him to get the land into productivity.

Most people will admit that the decision to have the new Polish western frontier on the Oder-Niesse line is excellent—for the reason that the winding, pre-war frontier with Germany will thus be shortened to about 200 miles, while the frontier with Czechoslovakia, which is linked to Poland as a member of the eastern security pact, will be lengthened. Another advantage of the new frontier for Poland is that the industrial gains will give her economy a greater balance ; hitherto she has been mainly agricultural, despite the fact that around Lodz and in upper Silesia she had a flourishing industry. The Poles are an adaptable people, and it must be the hope of all of us that they will make as much of a success of the new territories they will occupy as they did between the two wars of the port of Gdynia, which they wonderfully created out of a fishing village. It is all to the good, by the way, that the Allied Press is to enjoy full freedom to report upon developments in Poland before and after the prospective election.

France and the Potsdam Decisions

The whole future of Eastern Europe is alluded to in a somewhat vague fashion, while nothing is said of Turkey, the Straits or the Middle East. The claims of France to the west bank of the Rhine and in the Ruhr are passed over in silence—which certainly does not imply that the claims are allowed. As for the various matters on which nothing is said, one may fear that no agreement was reached between the Big Three. If that be so, then the Foreign Ministers may be able to tackle the job ; and in the meantime it will be advisable to leave these topics in abeyance.

That her claims have not, as yet, been granted is one reason for the discontent felt in France with the Potsdam decisions. She was bitterly resentful at not being invited to take part in the proceedings herself, and it is possible to sympathize with her present frame of mind, one that causes General de Gaulle to provide her with more circuses than bread. It seems to have been settled that Russia is to have 56 per cent of all goods and services taken out of Germany ; Britain and the United States each having 22 per cent. But Russia has undertaken to satisfy, or at any rate endow, Poland from her share ; and Britain and America will probably not be niggardly in the claims of other Allies.

One Government wholly enraged against the Potsdam declarations is that of General Franco, for "they feel bound," say the Big Three, "to make it clear that they would not favour any application for membership of the United Nations' Organization put forward by the present Spanish Government, which having been founded with the support of the Axis Powers does not, in view of its origins, its nature, its record and its close association with the aggressor States, possess the qualifications necessary to justify such membership." Here, indeed, is plain speech.

THIS condemnation, says General Franco, is arbitrary and unjust ; he ascribes it to the false atmosphere created by the libellous campaigns of exiled Reds and their accomplices abroad. Spain, he says, will continue at home and abroad to collaborate in the work of peace in which, by remaining neutral in two great wars, she made such a signal contribution. But the Spanish people are wondering if action of some sort will be taken against their country unless Franco yields to the storm of the Big Three. If their attitude causes him to hand over power to a Provisional Republican Government, which would at once hold elections, we would have further reason to applaud the work of the Big Three at Potsdam.

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW—BY THE BIG THREE

AT the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference (see illus. page 235) on August 2, 1945, the Big Three's decisions on the future of Germany and on European problems in general were made known to the world in a document of over 6,000 words. Imposing on the Reich rules which are stern and drastic but which allow the Germans eventually to take their place among the free peoples of the world, the momentous declaration included the following :

GERMANY.—Allied Control Council in Berlin to retain supreme authority. The Reich to be completely disarmed and demilitarized. All German war industries eliminated or controlled. No German central Government will be allowed to function for some time. Political parties permitted, but the electoral system will be developed only gradually. A beginning to be made with local elections.

REPARATIONS.—Claims of the United Kingdom, the United States and other Allies (except the U.S.S.R.) to be met by industrial removals from Germany's western zones. Russian and Polish claims will be met mainly from the Soviet zone of occupation. All removals to be completed within two years.

FRONTIER CHANGES.—Soviet claims to Königsberg and the northern triangle of East Prussia received the support of Britain and the U.S. Poland to assume administration of the rest of East Prussia besides all German territory to the east of the Oder-Neisse line. (See p. 265.)

LONDON COUNCIL.—A Five-Power Council of Foreign Ministers to be set up with headquarters in London. France and China invited to join. While London will be the permanent seat of the joint secretariat which the Council will form, meetings may be held by common consent in other Allied capitals as may be agreed upon from time to time.

TREATIES.—Peace treaties to be drawn up by the Five-Power Council will include those with Italy and ex-satellite countries in eastern Europe—as it is made possible.

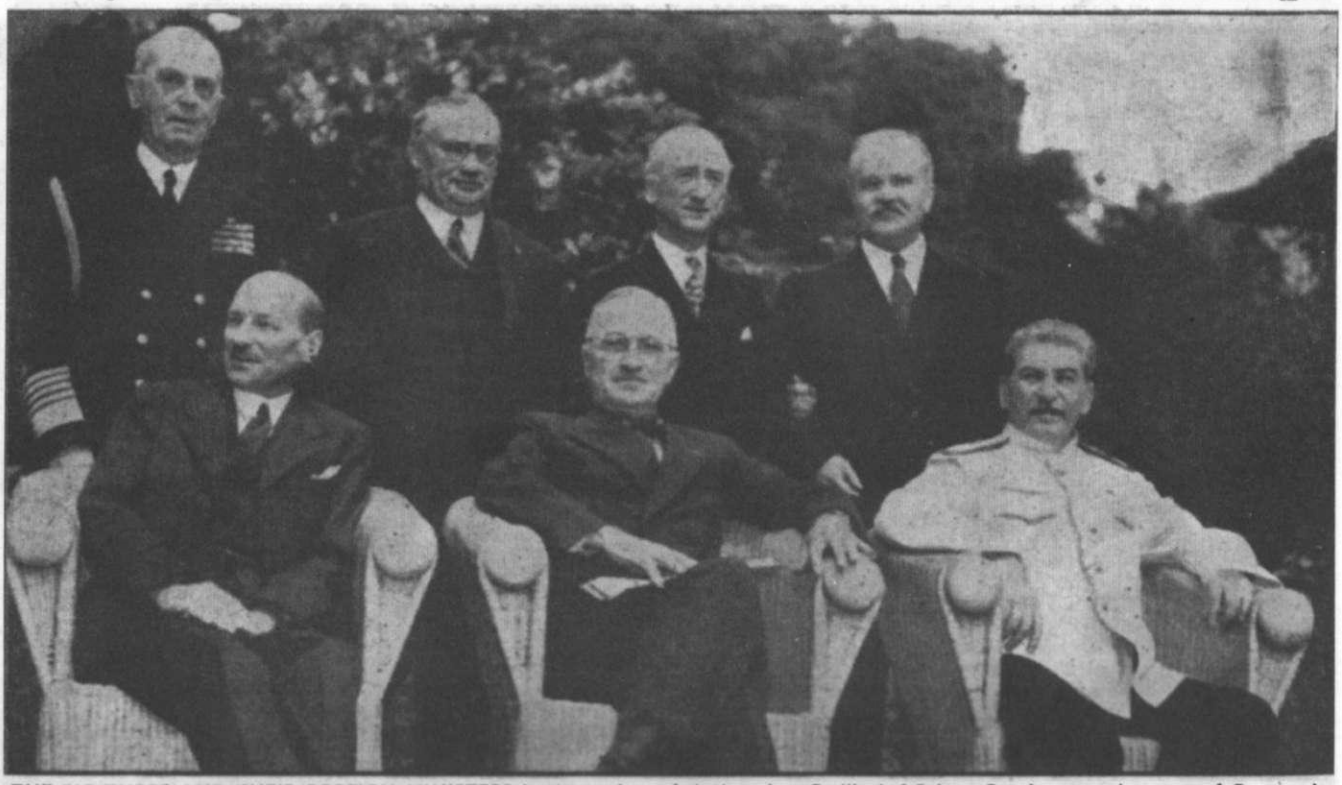
WORLD ORGANIZATION.—Governments neutral during the War may join the United Nations organization—with the exception of the Franco régime in Spain.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ON July 26 an ultimatum to Japan for the unconditional surrender of all her armed forces was issued from Potsdam in the names of President Truman, Mr. Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Leaving the Japanese with "prompt and utter destruction" as the only alternative to unconditional surrender, the ultimatum was contained in 13 stinging paragraphs, admitting of no equivocation. "The following are our terms," it began. "We will not deviate from them. There are no alternatives. We shall brook no delay." Among the conditions insisted upon were complete Japanese disarmament ; the break-up of all armament industries ; the elimination "for all time" of the influence of "those who have deceived and misled the people of Japan into embarking on world conquest" ; the limiting of Japanese sovereignty to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku "and such minor islands as we determine."

ANNOUNCING Soviet Russia's declaration of war on Japan on August 8, M. Molotov revealed that after Japan's refusal to surrender, the Allies submitted to the U.S.S.R. Government a proposal to join against Japanese aggression "and thus shorten the duration of the war, reduce the number of victims and facilitate speedy restoration of universal peace." Japanese acceptance of the Potsdam proposals (see page 258) was not finally transmitted to the Allies until late on August 14, when at midnight the British Prime Minister announced the end of the War.

They Laid the Foundations of the New Europe

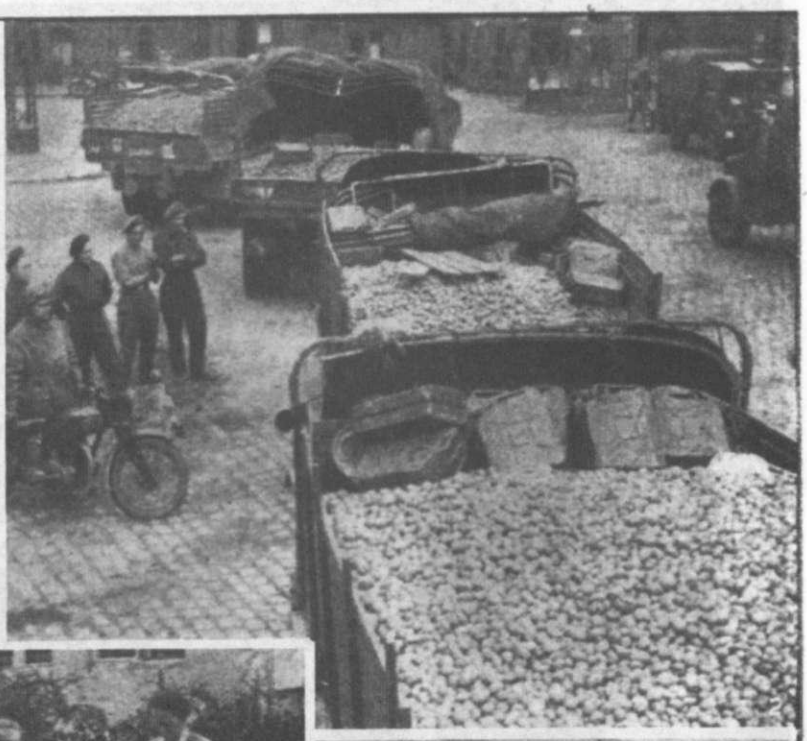


THE BIG THREE AND THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS in the gardens of the luxurious Cecilienhof Palace, Potsdam, one-time seat of Germany's ex-Crown Prince, as the momentous Conference neared its end. Front row (left to right) Mr. C. R. Attlee, President Truman, Generalissimo Stalin; behind (left to right) Admiral Leahy, U.S.N., Chief of Staff to the President, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Mr. James Byrnes, U.S. Secretary of State; and M Molotov. The Conference, which opened on July 17, 1945, held its final session on August 2. See facing page, also page 235. *Photo, Associated Press*

PROVISIONAL BOUNDARIES OF THE NEW POLAND as agreed at the Berlin Conference. Poland now secures part of Pomerania, including the great port of Stettin, Upper and Lower Silesia, besides part of East Prussia. The Western Ukraine and Western White Russia go back to the Soviet Union. The Russians also take part of East Prussia, including the important industrial centre of Königsberg, capital of the province, which had a pre-war population of almost half a million.

By courtesy of The Observer

Potato Queues and the Black Market in Berlin

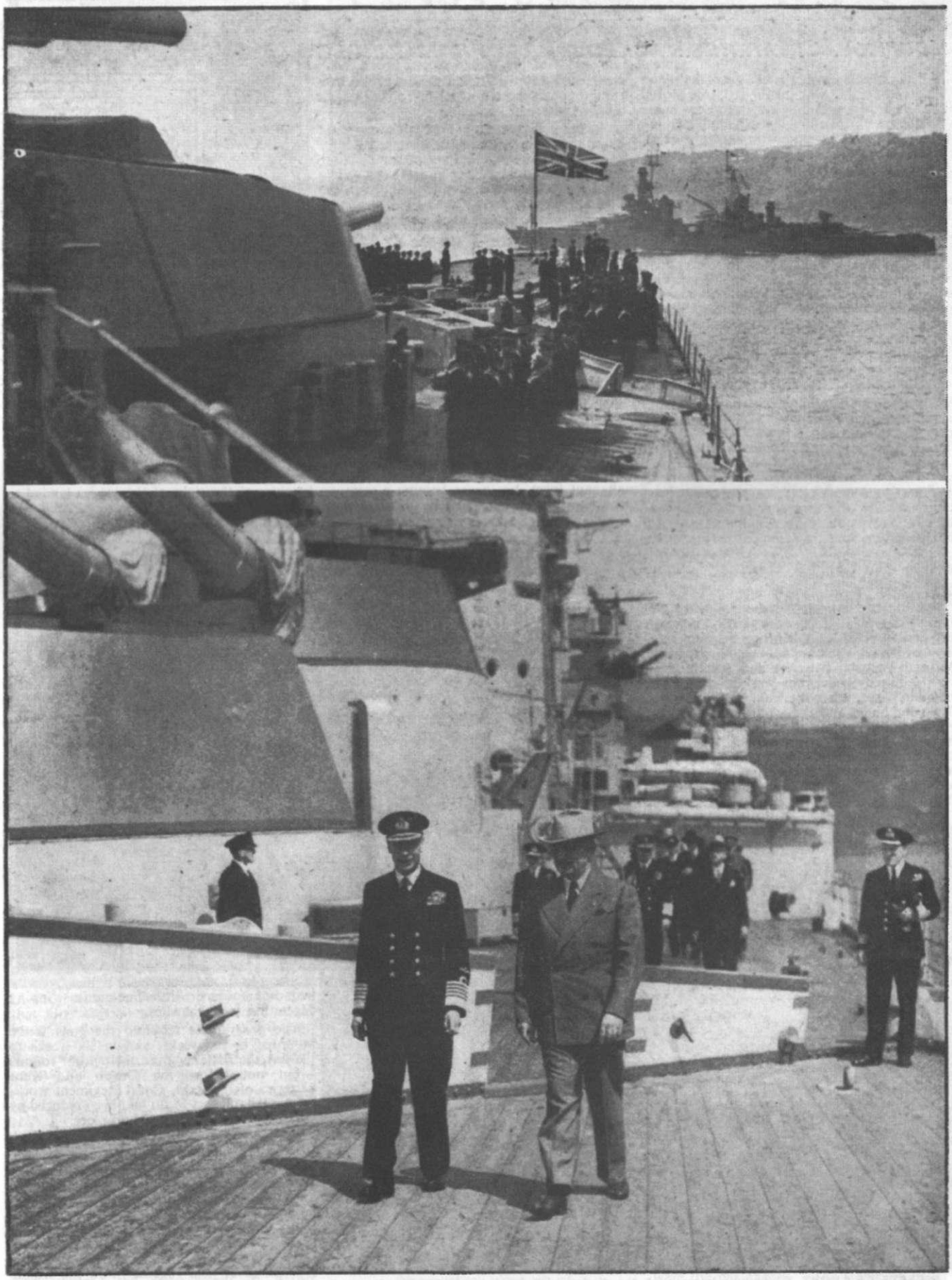


ONCE-LUXURIOUS ADLON HOTEL, bomb-damaged, is serving meals again—though the only room available is a bedroom, the bathroom is a pantry, a tiny hall the cloakroom. Dining at the Adlon, this girl (1) examines her coupons, without which food is unobtainable in Berlin restaurants. Potato shortage is keenly felt in the capital: British Army lorries, each loaded with 8 tons, arrive with German-grown supplies at the suburban station of Spandau (2). In the suburb of Zehlendorf, loads were dumped on the pavement (3) to be weighed and sold against coupons; the ration works out at approximately 8 lbs. per person.

Linking hands, young Berlin policemen round up vendors of suspected "Black Market" goods, for an identity check in the gardens of the blitzed Reichstag (4); 20 cigarettes are reported to fetch as much as £2:10:0 in Berlin's "Petticoat Lane," where British and U.S. soldiers are forbidden to trade. A British Army warning (5) explains itself. See also story in page 281.

Photos, Keystone, Planet News, The Daily Mirror

Our King and U.S. President Meet for First Time



FROM THE BATTLE CRUISER H.M.S. RENOWN officers and ratings watched the U.S. cruiser Augusta (top, background) sail down Plymouth Sound on August 2, 1945, as she carried President Truman and his staff back to the United States after the Potsdam Conference. Earlier in the day the President lunched aboard the Renown as guest of H.M. the King, with whom he is seen (bottom), pacing the quarter-deck. It was their first meeting. The King later paid a return visit to the President on board the Augusta.

Photos, G.P.U.

Now It Can Be Told!

HOW ROYAL MARINES HACKED A BASE FROM JUNGLE

THE dramatic story of another secret war port was revealed by the Admiralty in July 1945. It is the story of "Port T"—a naval base with full defences—hacked out of the jungle on Addu Atoll, a collection of waterless coral islets in the Indian Ocean, 590 nautical miles from Colombo and 3,000 from Australia.

Like the Mulberry (see page 710, Vol. 8), Pluto (page 120) and Fido (page 140), "Port T" was always known by its code name. Absolute secrecy was essential, for this port was a vital link on the convoy route to Australia and for certain operations in the Indian Ocean. Now it is possible to tell how a force of Royal Marines drawn from the first Mobile Naval Base Defence Organization, working against time and tropical disease, began preparing this secret Fleet anchorage while the Japs were still planning their attack on Pearl Harbour.

The Royal Marines went ashore on Addu Atoll in September 1941. Their task was to establish coastal batteries, searchlights, signal towers, roads, camps and jetties for a naval base. The price they paid was heavy; 23 per cent of the whole force had to be evacuated in the first three months by the hospital ship Vita, as too ill to be of further service, but by the time Japan declared war the base was ready, and on January 3, 1942, the first convoy of five troopships, escorted by the cruiser H.M.S. Emerald, put in to water and refuel.

THE atoll, in the extreme south of the Maldive Islands, consisted of a rough triangle of coral islets, surrounded by a coral reef which enclosed a deep lagoon. On four of the islands—Gan, Hitadu, Midu, and Wiringili—coastal batteries and searchlights were required while Gan was developed as the main base. When the First Royal Marine Coast Regiment and the Landing and Maintenance Company of the M.N.B.D.O., under the command of Lieut.-Colonel W. B. F. Lukis (now Major-General Lukis, C.B.E.), first reached Addu Atoll they were faced with virgin jungle without roads, landing places, or the most primitive amenities. The great swells of the Indian Ocean broke in a perpetual surf on the coral reef; tall palms towered above the islands.

But the disadvantages of this apparent island paradise soon made themselves felt. The climate was hot and very damp. Flies, mosquitoes and rats were plentiful. Practically every drop of water had to be shipped to the atoll and landed across the beach. Supplies were seldom sufficient to allow for washing.

Ate the Skin From the Flesh

The Royal Marines soon found that every small scratch immediately turned septic and developed into an ulcer that refused to yield to treatment. The humid climate favoured the growth of micro-organisms that literally ate the skin from the flesh, while the diet of dry or tinned food with no green vegetables or fresh fruit reduced a man's natural resistance to such infections.

Soon a form of scrub typhus, born of the rats and their parasites, broke out. While working, a man would suddenly fall unconscious without having previously complained of sickness. A violent fever followed for fourteen days, leaving the victim weak and debilitated. Malaria also appeared in malignant form, but never became a serious menace owing to the stringent anti-malarial

ADDU ATOLL, group of coral islets in the Indian Ocean, 590 miles from Colombo and 3,000 from Australia, site of a secret Naval base.

precautions. The rapid deterioration of tinned food caused the Quartermaster great anxiety and gave rise to occasional food poisoning.

But work was pushed on with relentless speed. First, landing-places had to be improved by blasting away the coral, then sites cleared in the jungle for camps. Roadways to take heavy guns and equipment had to be cut through the scrub to the battery sites before the work of gun-mounting could begin. The natives, though friendly, were timid and easily amused. For instance, they roared with laughter at the sight of the lorries landed to transport the guns. They were willing to help but could do little but aid in stripping vegetation from the sites.

The programme required the guns to be mounted in six weeks, and in six weeks to the day the batteries fired their proof rounds—but not before the Devon and Kent batteries of the R.M. Coast Regiment working on Hitadu and Midu had been reduced by sickness to less than 50 men apiece.

On Hitadu, the four-mile roadway from landing-place to battery site had to be laid across a swamp infested by giant land crabs. The major in command stripped and led his men thigh-deep into the black, foul-smelling mud to lay foundations with palm fronds lashed into bundles of ten. The running surface destined to carry 13-ton wheeled loads was made with prefabricated track and crushed coral held together with the trunks of palm trees staked down. Another road on Midu was entirely built by a corporal and six Marines continuously at work for two

SECRETS OF "PORT T" became known with the disclosure (in this page) that on disease-ridden and waterless islets of the Maldives in 1942 Royal Marines completed a base with full defences. The barrel of one of the big coastal guns being installed (right), and, later, a camouflaged gun-position (above). *Photos, British Official*

months. They used cord as the hard core, with a top dressing of earth and sand.

The islands were swept at regular intervals by torrential storms that washed away the road surfaces and flooded clearings and gun-sites. Unloading ships could only take place at certain stages of the tide, so that it had to continue day and night, with men working two six-hour shifts in twenty-four.

Yet by December 8, when news of Japan's entry into the war reached the islands, the anchorage was already in a state of defence ; only camouflaging, administrative installations and the completion of the war signal station remained to be done.

To improve communications a tubular bridge was built between the islands of Midu and Hera, and on Wiringili a channel was cut between the sea and a mosquito-breeding lake, so that the brackish water became tidal and the mosquito larvae were killed. Later still the islands were linked by causeways. When later in the year the Marines of the landing-party returned to Addu Atoll with a company of Royal Marine Engineers to build an aerodrome, they witnessed the most stirring sight in the history of the islands—they saw the Queen Mary herself, carrying home Australian troops from the Middle East, steam into the anchorage that they had built.

NEW LIGHTWEIGHT RIFLE, the No. 5, for S.E.A.C. troops, has an 8-in. bayonet (1) with cutting edge on both sides of blade. The rifle (2) weighs 7 lb. and serves a dual purpose —hurling grenades 250 yards. The grenade (in firing position, 3) weighs 1 lb. 4½ oz. and penetrates 4 ins. of armour.

Photos by courtesy of Soldier Magazine

GOEBBELS TRIED TO MAKE PEACE TERMS

As the Nazi Reich lay in its death agonies, Goebbels offered to play Judas to his master, Adolf Hitler, and take over the leadership of a reorganized German Government which would conclude an armistice with the Soviet Union. This was revealed to me here tonight (Berlin, July 23, 1945) by Lt.-Gen. Peter Kosenko, Chief of Artillery in the late Col.-Gen. Nikolai Berzarin's Fifth Russian Striking Army, which played the lion's part in storming Berlin. It is the first time that any Allied correspondents have been given a complete picture of the savage battle for Hitler's capital by senior Russian officers who themselves took part in the fighting.

At midnight on April 30, with fighting for Berlin at its fiercest, a small group of Nazi officers under a flag of truce presented themselves to the Soviet H.Q. in the southern part of the local Gestapo H.Q. in Friedrich-strasse. Their senior officer said he came from General of Artillery Weidling, Commander-in-Chief of all German forces in Berlin, who had authorized him to ask for an armistice between the Russian Government and a German Government under the leadership of Dr. Goebbels.

No mention was made of what would become of Hitler, but the inference was that he had already left Berlin, was dead, or would be handed over to the Russians, alive or dead, if they agreed to this suggestion. In this connexion it is interesting to recall that Goebbels was always reckoned as the leader of the " Eastern " wing of the Nazi party, which favoured reconciliation with Russia and switching all Germany's resources against the Western Allies.

The answer of the Soviet High Command was immediate and uncompromising: " Unconditional surrender—or else . . . " The Germans returned to their lines and all that night and the next day the battle raged. During the night of May 1, Hitler's Chancellery was finally stormed after bloody hand-to-hand fighting, and with the first light of May 2, General Weidling broadcast an order to all German troops in the Berlin area to lay down their arms.

The battle for the city divides itself into two phases: the encirclement of Berlin, which took five days, and converging attacks into the centre of the city from the south, north-west and east. All organized resistance was ended by May 2, but mopping up of small groups of desperados and franc-tireurs who held out in various parts of the city, especially the suburb of Spandau, lasted until May 10.

The Germans had prepared the city thoroughly and cleverly for defence. They had two S.S. tank divisions, two Volkssturm divisions and the remnants of S.S. and Wehrmacht units withdrawn from the Oder front. These were concentrated inside the Berlin trap and they were prepared to defend each house until it fell in ruins.

Population Cowered Underground

The Russians therefore organized their forces in special small " storm groups " for street fighting, each supported with tanks and artillery both light and heavy. According to General Kosenko, everything at that time was so mixed up that some of their light artillery was firing from the outer suburbs of Berlin while heavy guns were in action over open sights. Tanks were used wherever possible, but it was predominantly an infantry and artillery battle.

During most of the battle the civilian population remained cowering underground, dying in hundreds beneath the falling ruins of their houses. Many of them, however, emerged in the Russian rear and began sniping with rifles and bazookas. These were shot out of hand by special Soviet units detailed to deal with this nuisance.

Berlin seemed to be on fire everywhere, General Kosenko said. Smoke was so thick that visibility was sometimes less than 50 yards. German corpses were piled in streets that were almost impassable mazes of debris and fallen masonry. Big explosions rocked the city and sent columns of fire forking skywards as Russian aircraft and artillery exploded ammunition dumps which the Nazis had piled in the city's centre. It was here, at the crossing of the River Spree, and during the attack on the Chancellery and Air Ministry buildings in Unter den Linden that the struggle was fiercest.

This fighting was described by Maj.-Gen. Vladimir Antonov, the man who defended and saved Grozni's Caucasian oilfields from the Germans in 1942. The battle for the Chancellery began on April 27 after the River Spree was crossed, he said. This extremely difficult operation was carried out on rafts in face of murderous German fire at close range.

The Chancellery area itself was especially well held exclusively by S.S. men armed with tanks, self-propelled guns and a new sub-machine-gun the Germans were trying out for the first time. The defenders collapsed at the last and surrendered en masse.

General Kosenko said there was no evidence whatever to prove conclusively that Hitler was in the Chancellery during the battle. He was certainly not there when Gen. Antonov's troops came in. Aircraft had been seen taking off from Charlottenburger Chaussee during the last days, but nobody could identify the type or say who were the passengers. The riddle of Hitler's fate remained unsolved.—*Ossian Goulding, condensed from The Daily Telegraph.*

EIGHT MEN TO GUARD THE KING

WHEN this country faced invasion, after the withdrawal of the B.E.F. from France by way of Dunkirk, in 1940, prompt and serious consideration had to be given to the safety of Their Majesties and the two Princesses. How they were protected remained a secret until June 7, 1945.

A special bodyguard was formed of eight officers of the Brigade of Guards. To these fell the duty of safeguarding the Royal Family in the event of mass invasion. The chosen eight were known as the Coates Mission—after James Coates, commanding officer of the holding battalion of the Coldstream Guards—and one of their number was posthumously awarded the V.C. on the day that the secret of the Coates Mission was made public. He was Lieut. I. O. Liddell (see page 216). He had remained with the Mission until danger of invasion had passed, going back then to his regiment and taking part in the fighting in Normandy within a fortnight of D-Day. Seventeen days after the action which won him the V.C. a German sniper's bullet laid him low. He died without knowing that the greatest military award this country can bestow was his.

San Francisco Background to World-Wide Peace

At San Francisco on April 25, 1945, delegates from fifty Allied Nations undertook the task of agreeing on a framework within which the sovereign states could resolve differences without war. How this was achieved, and the Charter signed on June 26, is described for "The War Illustrated" by PETER HUME, who was present at the Conference. **See also illus. pages 52 and 272-273.**

THE heterogeneous war-swollen population of San Francisco is itself compounded of as many racial elements as were represented at the Conference, and the arrival in their midst of Ministers and senior representatives of the old countries from which they or their fathers had come stirred in San Franciscans many old bonds, half-forgotten in the melting pot of Americanism which in two or three generations had bred in their city a microcosm of the international harmony to be plotted by the Conference for all the world. Thus, though flags were tragically at half-mast for the President whose vision of a world at peace had brought the Conference into being, San Francisco stretched its traditional hospitality to the utmost for the thousands of delegates, experts and staffs of forty-six nations who at the end of April made their way by special trains and planes across America or the Pacific.

Might be "World's Last Chance"

At their first session they heard speeches from the delegation heads of the four convening nations—the great Powers which were playing the major part in bearing the burden of the war. These speakers, the Foreign Ministers of Britain, China, Russia and the United States, joined in stressing the magnitude and urgency of the task confronting the Conference. Theirs might be, as the then British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, put it, "The world's last chance" of avoiding "another world conflict which this time must bring utter destruction of civilization in its train." The great Powers' Foreign Ministers were followed at a series of Plenary sessions by the heads of the smaller countries' delegations, who devoted their opening speeches to expressing their nations' attitude to the general problems before the Conference and in particular to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, in whose drafting they had had no share and which many of them sought to modify in the preparation of the final Charter.

Thorniest of the early problems was the question of admission to the Conference of Argentina, whose Government had only very belatedly fulfilled the Yalta qualifications for membership of the United Nations. Perhaps nettled by the Conference's refusal to admit the Provisional Government of Poland pending its modification as proposed at Yalta, Russia strongly opposed the admission of Argentina, and after being outvoted in the Steering Committee (composed of all delegation heads), M. Molotov brought the issue before a plenary session by proposing that a decision be delayed. Again he was outvoted, though the predominantly anti-Soviet tone of local American opinion swung generally in the Russian favour.

SUCH clashes, combined with the increasingly unspectacular nature of the real work of the Conference following the panoply of the formal opening, awoke a slightly disappointed San Francisco to the fact that this was not, as the city had vaguely expected, a sort of super American-style convention dominated by brass bands and splendid oratory. Instead it was a serious and difficult attempt to solve by discussion a number of the most delicate problems of vital importance to the world's peace. As the Conference entered its second stage—the actual drafting of an agreed Charter by privately-meeting Commissions and their dependent committees—it receded almost into the background of the city's normal wartime life.

With this change of attitude there came also, as the Committees continued to meet through May, a certain impatience and even pessimism about the apparent failure of the Charter to take recognizable shape, and about the constant checks which held up work at first thought completed. As each clause of the Charter worked its way up the necessary chain of approval, from the original drafting committee to the Steering Committee for final presentation to the full Conference, such checks inevitably appeared —often from unexpected quarters.

MEANTIME the Nazis had gone down to their final defeat, victory pointing the urgency of the Conference's work and at the same time forcing several of the leading delegates to return to their countries to deal with the pressing problems which followed victory. Among those departing were Mr. Eden and M. Molotov, whose absence (especially in the latter case) tended to slow up the unravelling of the difficulties previously referred to. Particularly on the question of the Great Powers' right of veto of action by the organization's Security Council on disputes laid before it, the remaining Soviet delegation proved unable without reference to Moscow to agree with other delegations on the interpretation of the decision taken at Yalta. Since this question of the right of any one Great Power to block action by the world organization was obviously central to the whole construction of the organization and its Charter, this delay held up the otherwise almost completed work of the Conference.

Tattered Banners, Tired Officials

Nevertheless, after days of anxious waiting, agreement was reached between the sponsoring Powers, and a proposal laid before the Conference which, in the words of the American Secretary of State, "preserves the principle of unanimity of the five permanent members of the Council (Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States), while at the same time assuring freedom of hearing and discussion in the Council before action is taken."

The spotlight came back to San Francisco as President Truman flew across from Washington to witness on behalf of the United States the signing of the United Nations Charter. That was on June 26, and next day it was left for San Francisco and the world to ask what remained besides tattered banners and tired officials; what had the world gained which would not be taken away with the loaned typewriters from the delegates' hotels? The San Francisco Conference had not done—and had not set out to do—anything territorially specific. While its deliberations were inevitably coloured by the movements of armies across the map, its concern was with the demarcation lines of international behaviour rather than of international boundaries.

AND in this vital sphere, 50 nations, comprising more than four-fifths of all people on earth (White Russia, the Ukraine and newly-liberated Denmark as well as Argentina had joined the nations represented at the start of the Conference) had agreed over a wide range of subjects to work together rather than in a spirit of sovereign irresponsibility. In brief summary, this is how in nine weeks at San Francisco "the world's last chance" was taken.

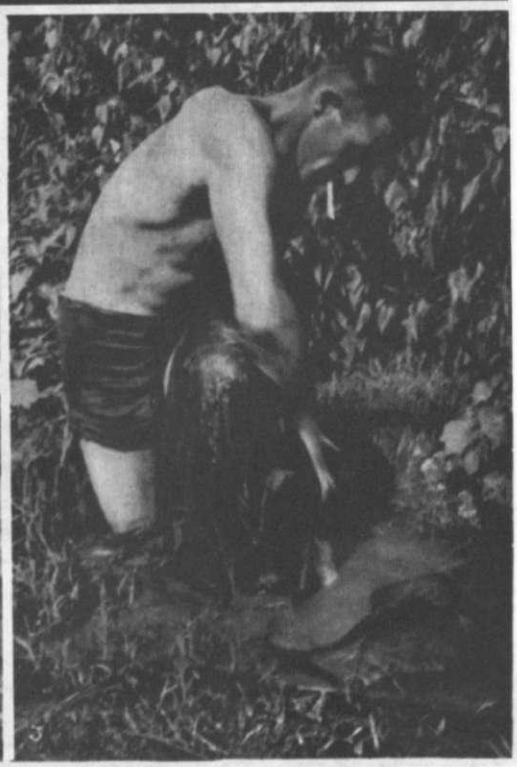
First, the Charter establishes an international organization "based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members," who are (at least provisionally) those nations taking part in the Conference. These members pledge themselves to settle international disputes by peaceful means and not to threaten or use force against any other State, as well as to give the organization every assistance in any action it may take against States (whether or not they be members) who are ruled to be acting contrarily to these principles.

Kernel of the New Organization

The world organization will have—apart from its secretariat—five principal organs with functions clearly defined in the Charter. A General Assembly of all member States will discuss any subject within the scope of the Charter, including general questions of international co-operation and specific questions brought before it by any member or by the Security Council. This Council, described by the Times newspaper as "the kernel of the new organization," will consist of five permanent members representing Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, and of representatives of six other nations chosen by the General Assembly for periods of two years each. While the Assembly will, except in special circumstances, meet only annually, the Council will "be so organized as to be able to function continuously." It is designed, in fact, as the executive committee of the organization with delegated power to take any action against threatened or actual aggression, including armed action in which use might be made of forces drawn from member States. In such cases, any State providing forces will be invited to participate in the Security Council's deliberations. An International Court of Justice (fifteen members of different nationalities) will assume the international legal authority of the old Hague Court, backed by the Security Council.

This machinery, though, by the provisions of the Charter will only be set in motion when seven members of the Security Council, including all the permanent members, vote in favour. Only in the case that one of these members was party to a dispute would this rule be waived and the member concerned abstain from voting. Otherwise Britain, China, France, Russia or the United States could individually check the working of the machinery. Just as the Assembly (providing the general base for all the organization's functions) and the Security Council are in effect strengthened developments of the old League of Nations Assembly and Council, so the other three organs set up by the San Francisco Charter serve as more virile, wider-embracing versions of the specialized sections of the League brought into tune with the new spirit that has succeeded the Second Great War.

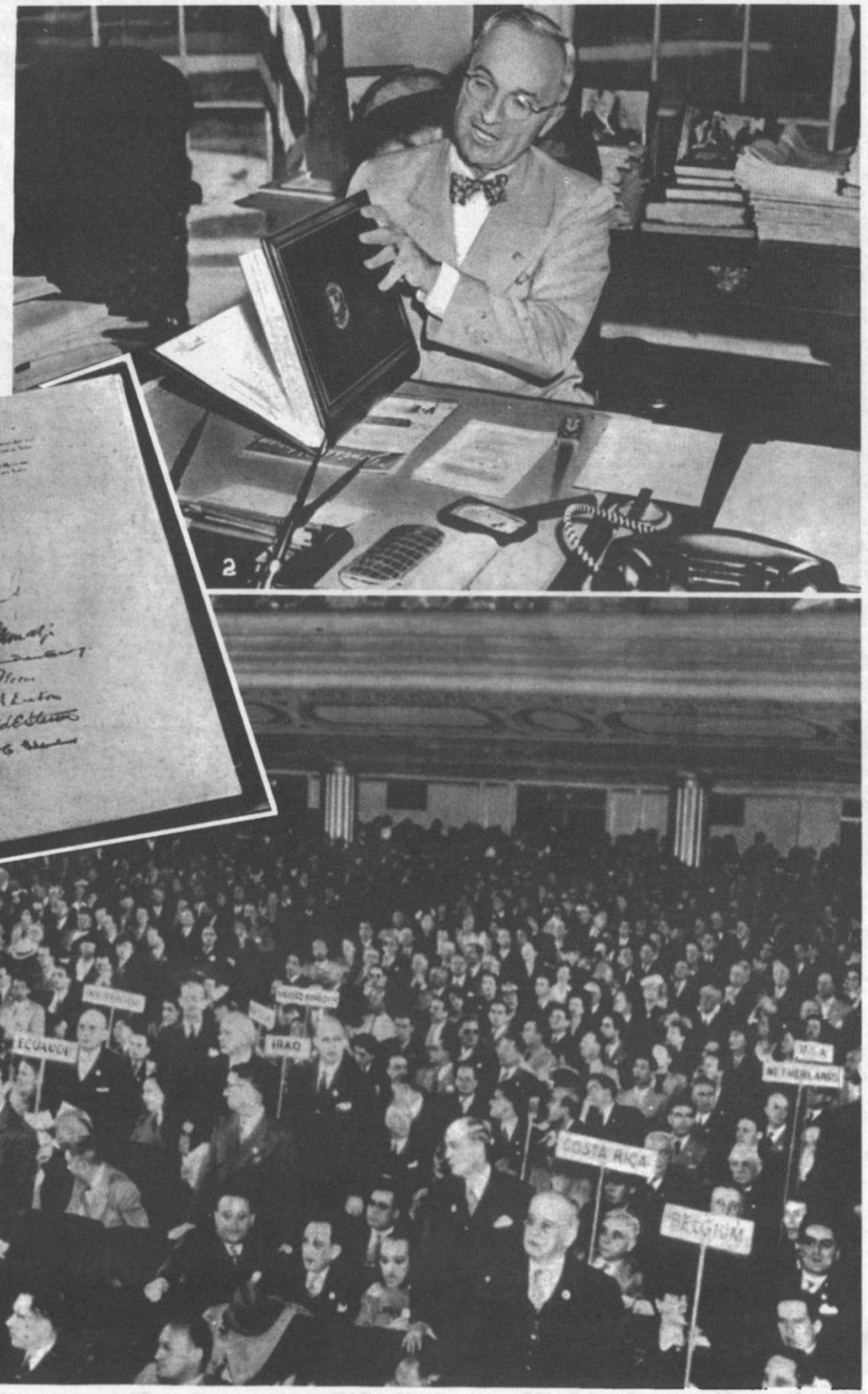
THUS in two long documents of 171 Articles, every word of which had to be hammered out over the Conference table, the victors of the Second Great War laid down at San Francisco a framework which they could feel sure was ready to receive and hold the flesh of understanding and the breath of continuing good will in order that war might vanish. At the final session Lord Halifax, of Britain, was in the Chair, and when he called for a vote on the adoption of the Charter he asked the delegation heads to register their approval by standing in their places, because "this issue upon which we are about to vote is as important as any we shall ever vote on in our lifetime." Fifty men stood, representing fifteen hundred million seekers after peace.



Photos, British Official

Monsoon and Mud Were the Japs' Allies in Burma

Torrential rains fell, sometimes for ten hours without a break, churning the country to mud. Yet on August 1, 1945, S.E.A.C. was able to announce the closing stages in the attempt by remnants of the Japanese Imperial 28th Army to break out from the Pegu Yomas; more than 10,000 were killed. Our men on patrol (1) in local craft across a flooded paddy field, and (2) close to the Pegu Canal. On their return, Cpl. R. Kemp, of London, washes mud from his clothes (3).



Fifty Allied Nations Signed the World Charter—

United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO), which opened at San Francisco on April 25, 1945 (see illus. p. 52), held its final session on June 26, when President Truman (1, standing on dais) addressed the delegates. On that date the representatives of 50 Allied nations put their names to the Charter, which was ratified on July 28 by the U.S. Senate. The President examines the bulky Charter (2). The Earl of Halifax adds his signature (3).

Photos, Sport & General, Keystone

—To Ensure Durable and Just Peace for the Future

As the Conference neared its triumphant close, chairmen of the delegations stood (4) to record a unanimous vote of approval of the Charter. Among the signatures recorded (5) were those of the Russian delegation (left), the British (top right) and the U.S. (bottom right). " If we had had this Charter a few years ago," said President Truman, " millions now dead would be alive. If we should falter in the future in our will to use it millions now living will surely die."

Mortar Crew in Action at Balikpapan in Borneo

Photo, Australian Official

Important oil-centre on the south-east coast of Jap-occupied Borneo, Balikpapan was regained after the Australian 7th Division landed there on July 1, 1945. This mortar crew was supporting infantry attacking a feature near Vasey Highway —specially named by the 7th Division to commemorate its former leader, the late Maj.-Gen. George Vasey. Maj.-Gen. Milford, commanding the Division, told his men that their assault would remain an outstanding achievement of this War.

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Of Vital War Books

by Hamilton Fyfe

By this time everyone knows the name of Admiral Chester Nimitz, and most of us are aware that he is Commander of all naval forces in the Pacific. But very few know more than that. The sketch of him that Duncan Norton-Taylor gives in his book, I Went to See For Myself (Heinemann, 7s. 6d.), is therefore very welcome. The admiral is described as "a sunburned, apple-cheeked man with cotton-white hair and sky-blue eyes, who looks like a Texas farmer." He was born and brought up in Texas ; he is said to be of German stock ; his family were hotel-keepers.

I should have guessed they came from Russia, for "Nyaymitz" is Russian for "German." However, his origin does not matter. He is American and has been American all his life, and he is one of the most famous Americans of the War. He had no advantages to start with. His first job was driving a butcher's cart. But as soon as he managed to enter the Navy he showed that he meant to rise high in the service. He studied naval problems deeply and came to the conclusion that the usefulness of the battleship was by no means over, as many have been thinking these last thirty or forty years. He is at the same time a strong believer in the great value of the submarine. He is not quite so sure about aircraft at sea.

He told newspaper men at his headquarters (Pearl Harbour of sinister memory) that it would be a long war and that it would be decided by the Navy. His staff took the view, which seems to be his own as well, that it was "problematical"—which meant in the highest degree unlikely—that Japan could be destroyed by the bombing of her homeland.

> The Navy's theory was Clausewitz's : to defeat the enemy you have to destroy his armed forces.

That has most certainly been carried out, so far as the Japanese Navy is concerned ; so perhaps Admiral Nimitz looked on with approval at the efforts being made to reduce Japanese cities to ruins and thus shatter the morale of the people and their leaders who brought this misery upon them. He will certainly not gloat over their distress, for he is "rated as a kindly man." He "has a look of stern preoccupation," but he is no martinet, "which a lot of other, older admirals are." He is fifty-eight : that is reckoned young, and he is inclined to "act young" in the matter of etiquette and costume. He receives the Press in his shirt-sleeves. "The four stars on his collar are the only mark that sets him apart from the rest of his khaki-clad officers."

Cockroach-Ridden Colonial Port

There is no doubt as to his capacity and driving-force. He was put in charge of Noumea, New Caledonia, when the Vichy French governor was driven out, and under his control the "threadbare cockroach-ridden colonial port, with broken-down utilities scarcely adequate for the needs of the slovenly little town" became a first-class military establishment.

> Ships from Australia, New Zealand, the United States hauled timber for dock-piles, strip steel for huts, pipes for plumbing, men and machinery to do the digging and erecting and assembling ; and overnight a town of thousands of men whose business was war was superimposed upon a town of a few thousand outnumbered, bewildered colonials. The construction units had to pioneer in the mountains before they could get to work building roads, reservoirs, fuel and ammunition dumps, warehouses, repair shops, barracks and hospitals.

New Caledonia is, or was, a French possession. The American naval officers there shook their heads when asked what would become of it after the War. But we appreciate their idea on the subject from the following passage :

> Certainly if we (that is, the United States) intend to dominate the Pacific we will have to occupy the island. Apart from its importance to us as a base, New Caledonia will be then, as it is now, a place to deny the enemy. Beyond its deep, now heavily-fortified harbour lie mountains filled with minerals, nickel and chromite, which are being shipped to American war plants ; cobalt and iron. But we have no title. France will probably want back her once-neglected stepchild.

That sounds as if this French island with a British name might be a source of trouble in the not far distant future. The French used it from 1863 to 1895 as a convict settlement. They have never managed to colonize it with free people. Noumea is a wretched place, even by Pacific standards, which are not high.

America's Citizen Navy at Work

The sailors have the best of it. They live in clean, wholesome ships and have plenty of any air that happens to be about, instead of sweating on shore in smelly surroundings (Noumea has open sewers in the streets). Life at sea is infinitely preferable, most of us would say, to life on a tropic island. But soldiers have their point of view about it also. A sergeant told the author, "Sure, it's a nice life on a ship if you don't get seasick and so on. But when the shooting starts I like to have a lot of ground under my feet in case I want to go somewheres else. The trouble with a ship, mister, is you can't get off it. You got to stay and take it. By and large, when there's a war on I prefer the infantry."

One can understand this when one reads Mr. Norton-Taylor's account of the battle at sea during which he crouched on the bridge of a United States cruiser. It was the first time he had been on a big ship in action. The discharge of the fifteen 6-in. guns knocked him sideways and all over the place.

> Sight and sound were merged into one physical concussion that sent me staggering backwards. I was shocked and terrified and angry. The platform seemed to rise under me. I wanted to yell a protest. Possibly I did . . . I put my fingers up under my helmet and pressed my ears. The cotton plugs were not enough . . . I had only one sensation : passionate longing for it to cease.

That passage reveals the author and the nature of his book. He is not hard-bitten, unemotional, like most war reporters—I was like that myself, I think. He is more interested in himself and his feelings than in the events around him. He is always analysing, sentimentalizing, imagining. So he isn't anything near a typical war reporter. But he certainly can write. I have read numberless accounts of torpedoes approaching ships, but never a more vivid one than this :

> It was a thick white finger coming straight at us like a chalk line drawn across a blackboard. On this disengaged side of the bridge there was only one other man at the moment—

Admiral CHESTER NIMITZ, U.S.N., whose appointment as Allied Naval C.-in-C. Pacific was announced on April 5, 1945. An unconventional study of warfare in the Pacific is reviewed in this page. *Photo, U.S. Official*

a signalman who screamed : "Torpedo Torpedo !" But even if anyone had heard him it was too late for the ship to dodge. My eyes were fixed on the advancing track. I thought that our speed might yet carry us clear of the converging white finger. I was fascinated and leaned out over the rail to watch, and saw the wake end abruptly and squarely against our side amidships.

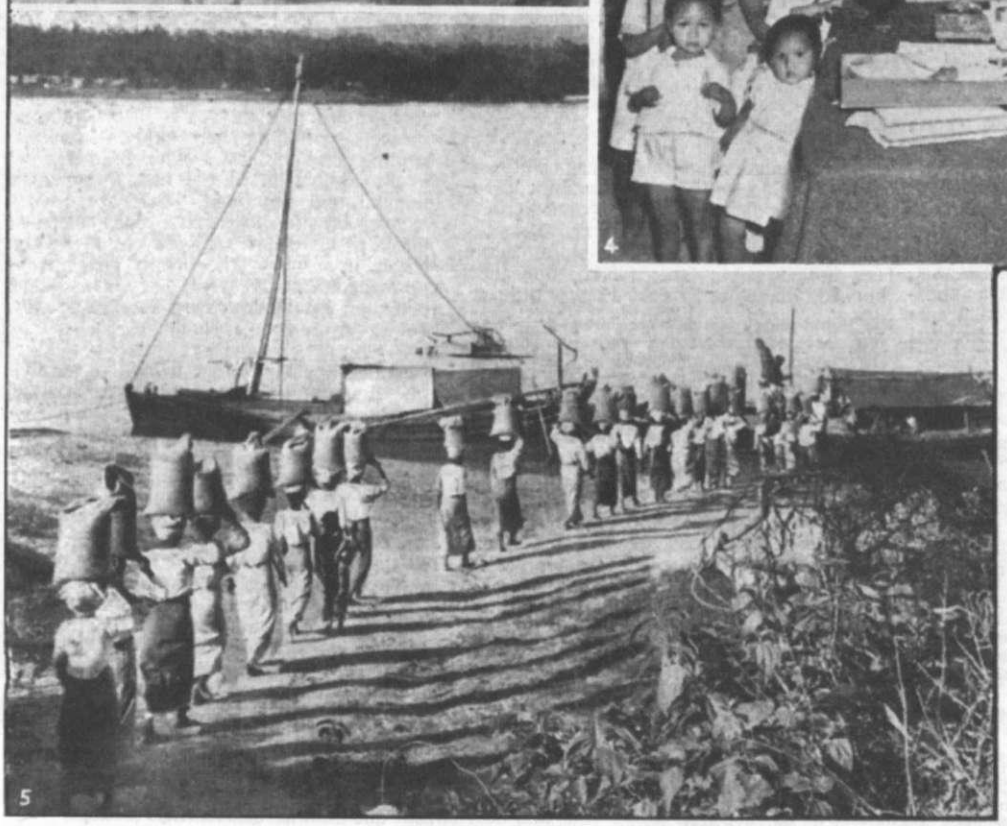
Men in the engine-room and in repair parties below decks and in sick bays and central stations and in the control room and in the magazines and handling-rooms under dogged-down hatches heard it bump and grate along the ship's bottom and thought their time had come. They told me afterwards that I should have thrown myself flat on the deck to escape flying fragments and the possibility of being flung overboard by the concussion. It was then, thinking back, that I felt a little sick, and thankful for some Jap's error of workmanship or calculation. The torpedo was a dud.

Blind Target for Bursting Shells

But the enemy did not often fail in that period. Norton-Taylor tells how the surprise attack on the Australian flagship Canberra was made with disastrous results, off the Solomon Islands on August 8, 1942. It was a dark night, with a fine rain falling. Suddenly "the whole ship and the stiff, surprised men aboard her leapt into view, illuminated by a searchlight which fell full upon them. It was one of those occasions when men had to depend on reflexes set up by long rehearsals. . . . The enemy landed some of his first salvoes on the Canberra's bridge, wounding her captain and disrupting her controls. The Canberra was like a fighter hit in the face, momentarily blinded and paralysed. Before she could recover bursting shells had transformed her into a pyre. Flames lighted her, made her a target into which the enemy continued to pour projectiles." How the Japs escaped detection by the destroyers detailed to escort her has never been explained.

The author pays warm tribute to the fighting qualities of the men he saw in action, but they had little idea of what the war was about. They supposed that life in their country would be just the same as before when they returned, and they ached to return as soon as possible. "They had no great hatred for the enemy ; if they were embarked on a crusade they did not know it. They had no ideologies which they could put into words or which anyone had put into words for them. This was just a lousy business which had to be tended to." It was a tedious business, too. They were bored beyond belief and they sought distraction in gambling, which gave them "something for their money to do." There was almost nothing they could buy with it. They acquired the habit of playing poker whenever they had any spare time. The correspondents did not play much. They were too much occupied in trying to beat one another by securing "scoops."

Burma's Civilians Retread the Peacetime Paths



IN RANGOON, freed in early May 1945, life was slowly returning to normal by midsummer after the long Japanese occupation: a start was made in demolishing blast walls outside this dignified civic building (1). On June 20, in a British warship moored in the harbour, there opened an important conference between Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith (2, left), Governor of Burma, and Burmese leaders to discuss plans for the country's future as outlined in the White Paper published in May; on Sir Reginald's left sat Lt.-Gen. F. A. M. Browning, C.B., D.S.O., hero of Arnhem and Chief of Staff to Lord Louis Mountbatten at S.E.A.C. Hdqrs.

Urgent problem is the schooling of young Burmese whose education, totally neglected by the Japanese, has had to begin again. Intent pupils attended this class (3) in the open air. Lt.-Col. Steele Perkins, Chief Administrative Officer at Maymyo (4), interviewed a native mother and her children at a refugee camp. Labourers (5) carried baskets of rice from paddy fields of the Shwebo plain for the relief, via the country's many waterways, of the starving population.

 Photos, British Official

De Gaulle Sees the Ruins That Were Brest

FRANCE'S LEADER SAW FOR HIMSELF when he paid a brief visit to the great Breton shipping and shipbuilding centre of Brest on July 28, 1945, and inspected the war-devastated streets of the once-populous town, and the arsenal. Accompanied by Naval and Army officers, he was followed by enthusiastic crowds waving the Tricolor. With a peacetime population of almost 100,000, Brest capitulated to U.S. troops under Maj.-Gen. Middleton on September 19, 1944, when General Ramcke, commanding the German garrison, hoisted the white flag.

Photo, Planet News

Atomic Bomb: World's Most Terrifying Weapon

"It is now for Japan to realize in the glare of the first atomic bomb which has smitten her," declared Mr. Churchill in a memorandum issued from 10, Downing St., on August 6, 1945, "what the consequences will be of an indefinite continuance . . . This revelation of the secrets of Nature, long mercifully withheld from man, should arouse the most solemn reflections in the mind and conscience of every human being capable of comprehension." See also story in page 280.

THREATENING Japan with annihilation, the atomic bomb is the most staggering invention of this war. The first one was dropped by an American Super-Fortress on Hiroshima, important Japanese Army base with over 300,000 inhabitants, on August 6, 1945. "That bomb," according to a statement by President Truman, issued from the White House, "had more power than 20,000 tons of T.N.T. It had more than 2,000 times the blast power of the British 'Grand Slam' (ten-tonner), the largest bomb yet used in the history of warfare." (See illus. p. 189.) This makes the effect of a single atomic bomb approximately equivalent to a raid by 2,000 Super-Fortresses.

"One of our major worries in Europe," said Gen. Carl Spaatz, commander of the Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific, "was the fear that the Germans had perfected some secret weapon comparable to this. The Germans were actually experimenting in this direction in a huge factory at Oranienburg (on the northern edge of Berlin), but we wiped out the factory in a big raid in the spring of this year." In answer to a question as to whether the new bomb would have speeded the end of the European War, he replied, "If we had had it, it might have shortened the war by six or eight months. We might not even have had a D-Day."

IT was Japan's fate to be the testing-ground of this amazing result of British and American research carried out at a cost of £500,000,000. Work was first done mainly in the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London (Imperial College), Liverpool and Birmingham. At the time of the formation of the Coalition Government in 1940, responsibility for co-ordinating the work and pressing it forward lay with the Ministry of Aircraft Production, advised by a Committee of leading scientists presided over by Sir George Thomson—and there was a full interchange of ideas between these scientists and their colleagues in the United States.

In late October 1941, President Roosevelt sent to Mr. Churchill a letter suggesting that any extended efforts on this important matter might usefully be co-ordinated or even jointly conducted. Accordingly all British and American efforts were combined and a number of the British scientists concerned proceeded to the U.S. Apart from these contacts, complete secrecy guarded all these activities and no single person was informed whose work was not indispensable.

By the summer of 1942, Great Britain being overbusy with war output, it was decided to build the requisite full-scale production plants in America. And Mr. Churchill has paid tribute to Canada's co-operation: "The Canadian Government provided both indispensable raw material for the project as a whole and also necessary facilities for the work on one section which has been carried out in Canada by the three Governments in partnership."

AS part of the great co-operative effort, Canada had undertaken (it was announced by Mr. C. D. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions, in August 1945) to build a pilot plant for the purpose of investigating one of the methods of making material which is required for the atomic bomb. Canada also supplies uranium, which is the raw material on which this new source of power at present depends.

One of the places where the atomic bomb was made is Oak Ridge, a "secret" city in Tennessee. Extraordinary measures were taken to seal off the workers from the outside world. About 125,000 laboured there but none spoke of it. To make security possible in the first place, every worker before he was taken on had his record closely inquired into and the same attention was given to the members of his family. If a single doubt arose, the seeker of employment at Oak Ridge was turned down.

Locality and factory cost £276,500,000 to build and equip. Today Oak Ridge's houses number 10,000, and dormitory beds total 13,000. For the 11,000 children nine schools are provided and amenities include a hospital. There were other areas similarly engaged, as revealed by President Truman:

"More than 125,000 people worked to construct atomic bomb factories in the U.S., and more than 65,000 are now engaged at two great operating plants and many lesser factories. Many have worked there for two and a half years. Few know what they have been producing. They see great quantities of materials going in and they see nothing coming out of these plants. For the physical size of the exploding charge is exceedingly small. The Potsdam ultimatum (he added) was issued to spare the Japanese people from utter destruction. Their leaders promptly rejected the ultimatum. We are now prepared to obliterate more rapidly and completely every productive enterprise the Japanese have above ground in any city."

Sir Charles DARWIN — Descendant of the Victorian biologist. Director of National Physical Laboratory. A member of the British Research Committee.

Sir Edward APPLETON — Head of Britain's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Authority on Astro-Physics and Wireless Telegraphy.

Photos, Topical Press, Keystone

That obliteration began at Hiroshima. After General Spaatz had issued a communiqué from Guam to the effect that reconnaissance photographs showed that 60 per cent of the city had been destroyed, Tokyo broadcast (on August 8) that "The destructive power of the bomb is beyond words. When buildings were hit every living being outside simply vanished into air because of the heat, and those indoors were killed by indescribable pressure and heat."

WHO invented the atomic bomb? In answer to that question, Sir Edward Appleton, head of Britain's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, declared that the final result had been the product of many brains. "But everyone would agree that the starting point of this wonderful discovery was the pioneer work of the late Lord Rutherford (in 1919 Lord Rutherford for the first time made an atom explode), whose experiments on the artificial disintegration of nitrogen directed attention to the stores of energy locked up in the heart of the atom." Earlier pioneer work, however, had been done by Sir J. J. Thomson, whose son, Sir George Thomson, was head of the panel of British scientists working on the bomb.

Sir George THOMSON — One of the greatest authorities on the atom. Professor of Physics at Imperial College of Science. Scientific adviser to Air Ministry.

Prof. Niels BOHR — Professor of Theoretical Physics at Copenhagen and Nobel Prize winner, he smuggled Nazi atom secrets to Britain in 1942.

Photos, British Official, New York Times

And so at long last we have freed the energy of the atom. Will the atom become mankind's master? Sir John Anderson, who as Lord President of the Council was appointed by Mr. Churchill to be responsible for atomic research, has said: "We have got to see to it that the colossal energy created by the atomic bomb is harnessed for the benefit of mankind . . . War purposes have been given absolute priority, but the basic investigations, the fundamentals of the whole thing, will stand when investigation is made into using the energy of the bomb for industrial development. My opinion is that it will take a long time . . . The cost of producing the essential materials is very great."

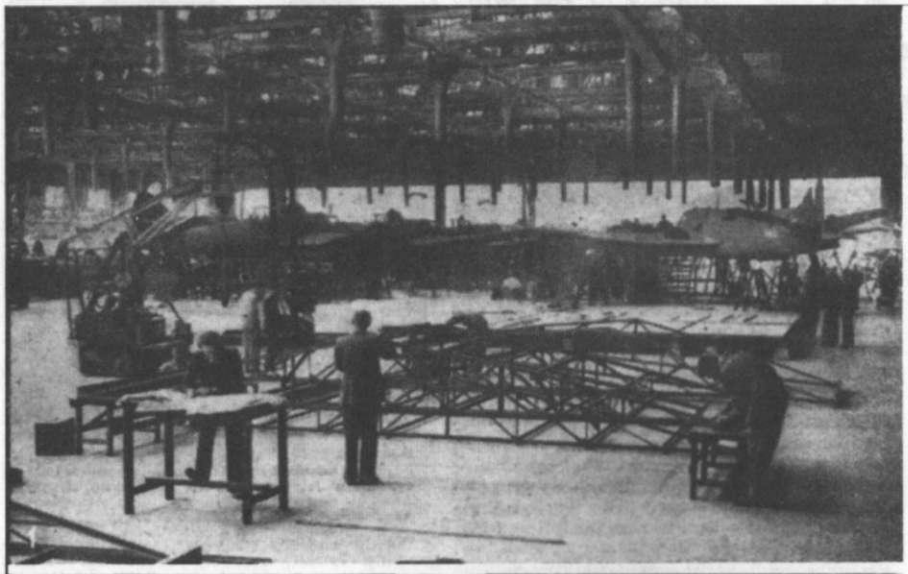
And how is the awful secret of the atomic bomb to be kept only in the hands of those well disposed to their fellow men? It is a problem of the first magnitude. "We must indeed pray," says Mr. Churchill, "that these awful agencies will be made to conduce to peace among the nations, and that instead of wreaking measureless havoc upon the entire globe they may become a perennial fountain of world prosperity."

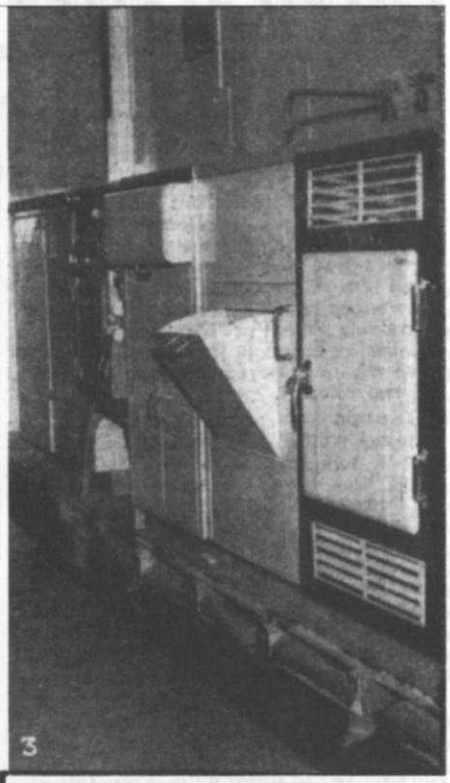
Sir James CHADWICK — In 1932 he discovered the neutron, thereby transforming conception of the constitution of matter and making the atomic bomb possible.

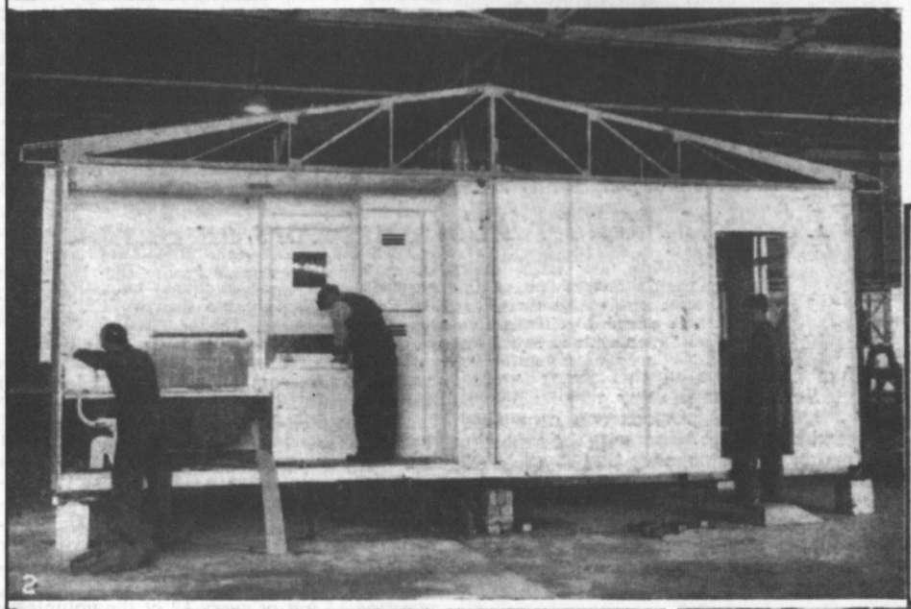
Sir John ANDERSON — As Lord President of the Council in Mr. Churchill's Government he organized a committee for research into the atomic bomb.

Photos, Walter Stoneman, Pictorial Press

Transition from Warplanes to New British Homes







PREFABRICATED HOUSES, largely made from aluminium alloy, are being built in a British aircraft factory which produced the R.A.F. Beaufighter. In the erecting shop (1) workers assemble roofs of the new houses, with Beaufighters in the background. The structure contains two bedrooms, hall, living-room, kitchen and bathroom, etc., is built in four separate units, each approximately 22 ft. 6 ins. by 7 ft. 4½ ins., ready for transport to the site. Sectional view (2), showing roof, bathroom, living-room doorway. The kitchen (3) is all-electric and is fitted with refrigerator and garbage shoot.

FIRST OF THEIR KIND, prefabricated houses of the "Howard" type are being built in a Woolwich factory. Two-storeyed, they will cost between £800-£900. A "Howard" takes shape on the site (4). Royal Marines have been busy solving the housing problem at Orpington, Kent: laying drains and, in the doorway, plastering (5).

Photos, Central Press, Planet News, Daily Mirror

I Was There! Eye Witness Stories of the War

We Dropped the First Atomic Bomb On Japan

Two men in the Super-Fort which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945—Col. P. W. Tibbets, the pilot (awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal immediately he returned from the raid), and Capt. W. Parsons, a U.S. Navy Ordnance expert—gave these first accounts of the awesome effect. And the first test of the bomb is described in the Reuter message which follows their story. See also page 278.

IT was hard to believe what we saw. We dropped the bomb at exactly 9.15 a.m. Japanese time, and got out of the target area as quickly as possible to avoid the full effect of the explosion. A tremendous cloud of smoke arose which completely blotted out Hiroshima. When we felt the explosion it was like flak bursting close by. We stayed over the target area for two minutes.

The whole thing was tremendous and awe-inspiring (added Capt. Parsons). After the missile had been released I sighed, and stood back for the shock. When it came, the men aboard with me gasped " My God ! " and what had been Hiroshima was a mountain of smoke like a giant mushroom. A thousand feet above the ground was a great mass of dust, boiling, swirling, and extending over most of the city. We watched it for several minutes, and when the tip of the mushroom broke off there was evidence of fires.

The success of the mission can be gauged by the fact that the first laboratory test of the new bomb was carried out on the Alamogordo bombing range in New Mexico, on July 16, and the finished product was delivered in Japan 20 days later. The men in the Super-Fortress knew they were in on something big, but no more. They were, however, told to expect a blinding flash and were issued with black goggles. Only three of us in the plane—Col. Tibbets, Bombardier Major Ferebee, and myself—knew what type of bomb was being dropped.

The first test, at the experimental centre, was like a Wellsian drama. Gen. L. R. Groves, a key man in the project, who was in the observation post 17,000 yards from a steel tower which was entirely vaporized by the explosion, said :

Two minutes before firing time, everybody lay face down with their feet pointing towards the explosion. As the remaining time was called over the loudspeaker, there was a complete, awesome silence. Dr. Conant (President of Harvard University) said he had never imagined seconds could be so long. Most of the individuals—in accordance with orders—shielded their eyes.

First came a burst of light of a brilliance beyond comparison. We all rolled over and looked through dark glasses at the ball of fire. About 40 seconds later came the shock-wave followed by the sounds, neither of which seemed startling after our complete astonishment at the extraordinary lighting intensity. Two supplementary explosions of minor effect other than lighting occurred in the cloud—which reached the substratosphere in five minutes—just after the main explosion.

General Thomas Farrell, General Groves' deputy, said :

The scene inside the shelter was dramatic beyond words. As the time for the test shortened from minutes to seconds tension increased. Everyone knew the awful potentialities of things they thought were about to happen.

The scientists felt that their figuring must be right and the bomb had to go off. But there was in everyone's mind a strong measure of doubt:

Col. PAUL W. TIBBETS, pilot of the Super-Fortress which dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan August 6, 1945. *Photo, Keystone*

We are reaching into the unknown, growing tenser, scarcely breathing. There came this tremendous burst of light, followed by a deep growing roar. Several observers standing at the back of the shelter were knocked flat by blast. All pent-up emotions were released in those few minutes, and all seemed to sense immediately that the explosions had far exceeded the most optimistic expectations and wildest hopes. All seemed to feel that they had been present at the birth of a new age—the age of atomic energy

I Saw the Glider Pilot Survivors on Parade

Commemorating their fallen comrades, at Stedham, near Midhurst, on July 29, 1945, survivors of the Glider Pilot Regiment remembered that two out of three of the Regiment's troops were missing or dead. The memorial service was attended by Edward Denny, whose description of the moving occasion is reprinted from The Evening News.

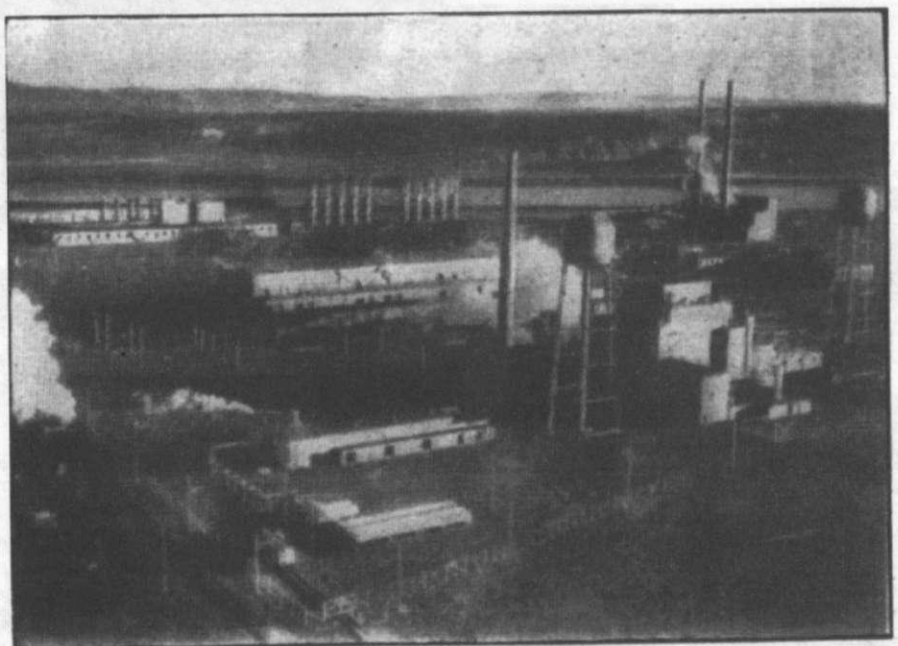
THE inhabitants of this sleepy ancient Sussex village were very privileged spectators. As the troops came down the road behind the band, with the perfection of march discipline, they had in their gait the confident lilt that comes to men when they are sure of themselves and justifiably proud of themselves and their Regiment. It would have been difficult to find a finer or more alert body of young men. For these were the survivors of the Glider Pilot Regiment on parade.

As I watched them my thoughts went back to their beginnings—to the early days when I first saw them, a " hush-hush " unit—on that windswept hill at Tilshead in Wiltshire. Then they had nothing but enthusiasm and a couple of gliders. I remember Brigadier George Chatterton, their commander (who hand-picked his officers, rejecting 11 out of every 12 of the volunteers who came forward for this strange new form of warfare), addressing them. It was a regiment in those days without traditions, without precedents to go on. They were regarded somewhat askance by the orthodox War Office pundits.

The traditions had to be created. The glories of Sicily, Normandy, Arnhem and the Rhine were unguessed in those far-off days when Britain thought in terms of countering, rather than staging, airborne invasions. " In this regiment," said the Brigadier, " we aim at the discipline of the Guards, the toughness of Commandos, individual intelligence and initiative of the Intelligence Corps."

How well they succeeded ! For here was indeed a *corps d'élite*—officers and men (sergeants, most of the latter) trained to be not merely first-class airmen, not merely to get their loads down at the right spot and at the right moment, but, if necessary, to fight as an infantry unit or as individuals (like the officer who fought a captured gun for many hours after all his companions had been killed), to fight with any and every type of weapon, and at all times to display that energy and initiative that only come to the highly trained, intelligent individual. In those far-off days there were 1,200 of them. Today there are 400. Two out of every three of the Tilshead boys are dead or missing.

The chance of their being in camp in the neighbourhood of the Brigadier's house had



ONE CENTRE OF PRODUCTION—general view of the Hanford Engineering Works at Pasco, Washington, D.C., one of the plants which helped the U.S. to produce the atomic bomb. First test took place on July 16, 1945, on the bombing range at Alamogordo in the New Mexico desert as narrated above. *Photo, Keystone*

Brigadier G. J. S. CHATTERTON, D.S.O. (left), inspired the formation of the British Glider Pilot Regiment, a memorial service to whose fallen is described here. *Photo, Topical*

led to an invitation from that officer to make his house and grounds their own, and to attend a memorial service for the fallen in the village church. For him, as he is being invalided out, it was probably his last parade.

And now they were in the church—a strange invasion, filling every pew, making the ancient crossbeams echo with the clump and scrape of army boots, drowning the stalwarts of the village choir, the high thin voices of the children with a volume of noise which the little church can seldom have heard, as 400 voices thundered "Fight the Good Fight," "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," and finally "Abide With Me."

The thoughts, the memories evoked by that moving and extremely simple service must have been varied. The long browning-off periods between operations; the first not very successful *coup* in Sicily, when the inexperienced tugs cast off too far out at sea and most had to swim for it; Normandy, and the bloody weariness of Arnhem; the thick haze of smoke and rubble dust which made the last, most costly and most successful operation, the crossing of the Rhine, so hazardous; grim memories of the young corporal simply disappearing when caught by the German flame-thrower; humorous memories . . . all these and many others may have been in the atmosphere of that little church, highly charged with the emotion which is only evoked by simplicity.

SIMPLE, too, was the Brigadier's farewell address. I wish it could have been recorded. He spoke without histrionics, of "the things I have watched as the Commander of this Regiment—the wonderful qualities of patience, discipline, and fortitude of all concerned. I have always wanted you to have the better qualities which are given to men. By that I mean simplicity, faith, and that good courage on which you would have to fall back when the real trial came—and you had them." He recalled old memories and abiding comradeship. There was nobody in that church who was not intensely moved.

The slanting sunlight caught and gilded the memorial tablets of long-dead squires and their relicts. The Regiment's first flag, designed by the men of the Regiment and struck for the first time, so long ago it now seems, on that bare hill at Tilshead, blessed by the vicar, later to hang in the church. Last Post, Réveillé, then out in the sunshine past the grassy mounds, the ancient yews and the lavender hedge, murmurous with bees, for that final pulse-quickening march past: these are things which the spectators of that little ceremony will not soon forget. It gave one a nagging sense of dissatisfaction not to have been privileged to be of that goodly company—and a quiet pride in a country which can still produce such men.

Toil and Trouble I Saw in the 'New' Germany

Today the German people in the British zone of occupation are writing their own Kampf. Remnants of their surrendered army, released under the "Barleycorn" scheme, help with the harvest. Undisciplined Displaced Persons need considerable attention. Problems of shelter and health and schooling are in process of being solved. Of these things John Fortinbras has written an account specially for "The War Illustrated."

JUST after 5.15 a.m. I was called from my billet in Hanover. Outside, on a patch of earth intensively cultivated as allotments, laboured an elderly frau. I judged her to be past 60 years of age, and in the half-light she was tending her vegetable crops with painstaking diligence.

Her example of "early to work" is not exceptional. At the base of bombed flats in the cities (cities of ruin beneath which bodies still lie uncovered, where normally stood little patches of grass enclosed by privet hedges) are pocket-handkerchief allotments—and no privet hedges, because their roots suck dry the moisture needed so vitally for vegetables. "Defeat gardens" the American soldier calls them.

Even waste areas in the towns have been put to the spade and, where there is sufficient earth made to sprout greenstuff. "Where weeds can grow, there should food be," said a German driver to me philosophically. The country's plight is realized. In the British occupied zone, which is the worst off agriculturally of the Allied zones, no assistance can be expected from the American or Russian sectors, not a grain of wheat in fact. Normally the zone we occupy produces but 15 per cent of the total foodstuffs necessary to sustain its population. It is thought that this can be stepped up to at least 30 per cent. The Germans are being restricted by their rationing authorities to a basic ration of 1,500 calories a day, just half that previously enjoyed, but three times the basic ration allowed the citizens of Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Utrecht and other cities of Northern Holland when these were under the Nazi heel.

The corn harvest is now almost entirely stacked, thanks to the British foresight of demobilizing—under Operation 'Barleycorn'—several thousand ex-farm workers from Wehrmacht prison cages. It is an unusually good harvest, especially in Westphalia, consisting mainly of pea, wheat, barley, and rye crops. A rich potato crop is to follow. These blessings owe their being to an exceptionally favourable season.

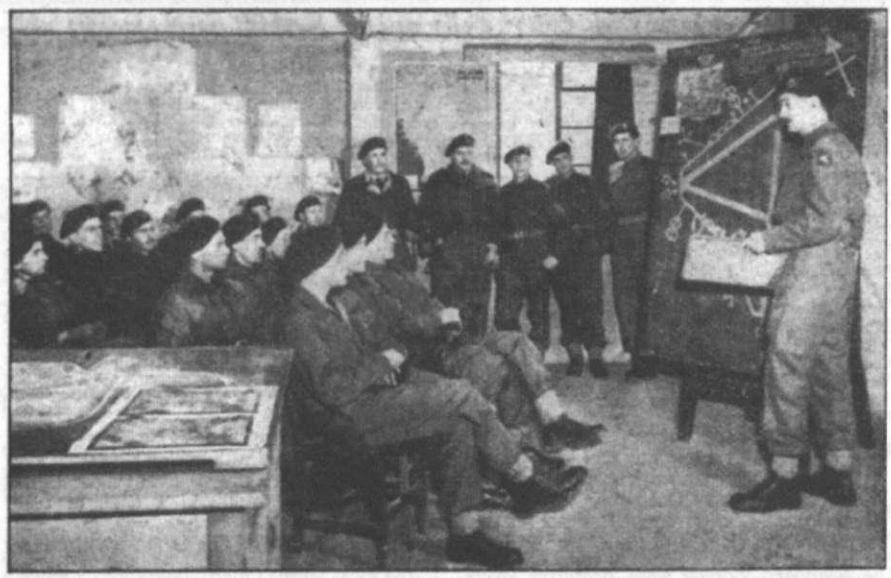
At a pinch, the food problem may solve itself. But certain signs must be watched. Almost every town in the British area has its D.P. (Displaced Persons) problem. These non-German nationals, forced labourers under the Hitler regime, still feel something of the licence which incensed them after liberation. Then, hundreds of them looted, plundered, pillaged, burnt, killed and raped almost at will. They even dragged girls off their bicycles in the streets, and in some districts, still strive to do so, at night. Much too much time of the Military occupying forces is devoted to keeping an eye on groups of undisciplined D.P.s.

Spoils Removed in Stolen Carts

I have known of German smallholders "visited" surreptitiously at 2 a.m. by gangs intent on killing their stock without reason or provocation and leaving it cold on the floors of styes and stalls. More enterprising D.P.s take away the slaughtered pigs, and dispose of their flesh at black market prices, 40 marks or so a pound. They even purloin, on occasion, the farmer's horse and cart to remove the spoils.

In Hanover it is proposed to establish this winter five permanent camps to accommodate 25,000 Polish nationals, some of whom are now living in this part of Germany for the first time; when Russians were repatriated, the authorities receiving them thought fit to send back Poles in lieu. D.P.s, in contrast to the Germans, are rationed on German foodstuffs according to a basic scale of 2,000 calories a day. In winter, with cold sharpening the appetite, and more young German men back on the farms, clashes may occur.

THEN there are problems of shelter and health. Many people have been amazed at the high standard of health revealed by the mere physical look of German children, their mothers and elder brothers and sisters. Their open-air fetish is quite remarkable. It continues even in wet weather, when barefooted children scramble up and down the pavements, oblivious to the rain, their sodden



LANDING TARGET FOR GLIDER PILOTS is demonstrated at a briefing during training. Cream of the world's fighting men, the Glider Pilot Regiment was formed, as part of the Army Air Corps of the British Army, in March 1942. Its finest hour was at Arnhem in September 1944. See also page 73, Vol. 6, and p. 370, Vol. 8. *Photo, Topical*

clothing or the slimy cold slabs underfoot, enjoying themselves hugely.

On Sunday mornings it is a sight to see all these children, with their parents, using shovels and pails outside their dwellings, levelling-out bomb craters and carting rubble away to organized dumps. At present they are splendidly fit. But German doctors, who have given every co-operation to date, complain of a shortage of diphtheria immunization serum for child innoculations. The serum used (serum Behring) also gives protection against scarlet fever. There is a shortage, too, of curative serums for these infectious diseases, but every effort is being made by our own authorities to step up supplies, since winter ravages amongst civilians are no part of Military Government's plan, and may react to the detriment of our occupying forces, especially as non-fraternization prevails no longer: (the ban was lifted July 14).

Their Public Utility Services

I have received reports of a few cases of spinal meningitis due entirely to overcrowded living conditions. These cases have arisen in villages which, long before the R.A.F.'s bombing ceased, served as dormitories and hide-outs for large sections of the civilian population, and fresh influxes of refugees at the time of battle greatly intensified their problems. Most six-roomed houses, even in the remotest hamlets, accommodate today from four to five families; and most flats are shared by two families. Now, also, since civilians are at liberty to rove within 100 kilometres of their home area, there is a constantly shifting population, and in infected localities the establishment of a cordon sanitaire is a matter of real difficulty.

Each day more and more Germans are assuming an active role in the running of public utility services under Military Government's supervision. At the outset, those given positions of responsibility, selected as a rule from men who were dismissed when the Nazi party obtained power in January 1933, or former concentration camp victims, lacked confidence; they behaved, as officials, indecisively and weakly. Today they begin to appreciate that so long as they act in good faith they can count on the backing of the British Army and all the authority embodied in Military Government.

It is expected that the state burger schools and universities will open shortly, by October at the latest. The difficulty, common to each Regierungsbezirk (administrative Government district), has been lack of non-Nazi text books and teachers. A fair number of schools, some very well-equipped ones with modern gymnasiums for children aged 6–10, and classrooms well-endowed with models and specimens for lessons in anatomy, have survived the bomb raids. Meantime, the "vetting" of teachers continues. They are examined politically by the educational staff of Military Government after first being approved by the German authorities as persons of proper cultural attainments—and experience.

As I find them, the Germans are obedient, co-operative, hard-working; well-disciplined and at no time since Occupation began hostile to British forces. In fact, in most cases they are anxious to cultivate our friendship. But they are still, of course, Germans. "Wer kampft hat Recht, wer nicht kampft hat allen Recht verloren." (Who fights has right, who fights not has all right lost.) They are fighting today, hard and cheerfully, for a bare livelihood. But it must not be assumed that the taint of Nazism which this slogan embodies has vanished utterly.

"OPERATION BARLEYCORN" is the name given by the British Military Government in Germany to harvesting—by former members of the Wehrmacht: some are seen leaving their farm work in the Ruhr, accompanied by girl companions and an accordionist. There are 300,000 such workers in the British occupation zone alone. *Photo, Keystone*

We Christened Our Isle with Salts and Rum

Tristan da Cunha, world's loneliest island, was revealed by the Admiralty in July 1945 as the Royal Navy's strangest "Stone Frigate." Commissioned 18 months ago as H.M.S. Atlantic Isle, it is now an important meteorological and radio station. Surgeon Lieut.-Comdr. E. J. S. Woolley, appointed Medical Officer-in-Charge, and later Commanding Officer, tells the story.

WITH his wife and two young children, a naval chaplain and a nursing sister, the new "Governor" set sail from Liverpool on March 20, 1942. In South Africa various "hands" were added to Woolley's party. A construction party of the South African Engineering Corps and the Union Defence Volunteers, together with several members of the Meteorological Defence Volunteers, and of the Meteorological Section of the South African Air Force, had gone to the island three weeks before, taking 2,000 tons of stores and building materials, in addition to sheep and other animals to provide food.

WE arrived at Tristan at the end of April, and by the end of August the construction personnel had left. By November and December 1942 the Meteorological Section could forecast all the weather for the Cape and the Indian Ocean. The islanders' homes were primitive stone cottages, mostly grouped on a small plateau with a mountain face rising steeply behind to 2,000 feet, dominated by a 6,760-ft. peak.

The naval party shared this grim plateau, building sleeping quarters, bathrooms, a galley mess and recreation rooms, store rooms, sick quarters and houses. The weather was most demoralizing. There were almost perpetual gales while the sunshine, even in summertime, was never more than four or five hours a day. At first we were known as Job Nine; then the Admiralty decided to commission the island as a ship. On January 15, 1944, we were commissioned as H.M.S. Atlantic Isle.

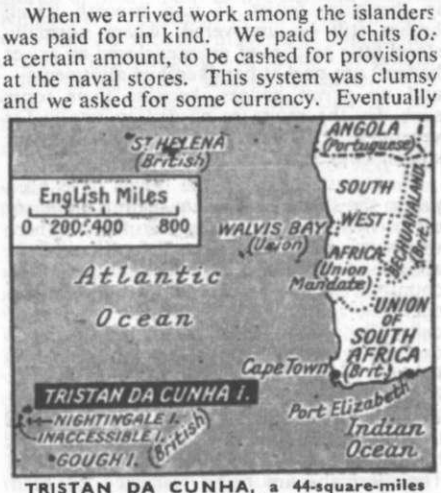
We chose a West African surf-boat for the naming ceremony, which was performed by my wife, using an empty champagne bottle filled with fruit salts and a dash of rum. The whole ship's company was mustered, and the Tristan da Cunha Defence Volunteers—the local Home Guard—paraded. I made a speech, my wife christened the boat—in which sat Percy the Penguin, one of our pets—and the Tristan One Man Band played Heart of Oak, the National Anthem, and other appropriate music.

This "band" was Chief Engine-Room Artificer McGee, who had to play his accordion sitting in a bullock cart as he had a broken ankle. At the end of the ceremony the Defence Volunteers smartly about-turned and fired three volleys out to sea. This was quite unexpected by the bullocks, which bolted down the beach. Out tipped McGee's crutches, the accordion followed, then finally McGee himself—unhurt.

Council of Eleven Islanders

Instructions issued to Lieut.-Comdr Woolley before he sailed suggested that he should act as "guide, philosopher and friend" to the population of over 200 islanders under their Head Man, William Repetto, and his mother, the Head Woman, Mrs. Frances Repetto, a figure of extraordinary character and influence in the little community. So in November 1942 a council of eleven islanders was formed to advise on island affairs and assist in the enforcement of order. Typical problems discussed included building a new parish hall, the control of grazing, the reduction of geese, the care of widows, the suppression of swearing, bird protection, and the "control of the improvident." Another problem was the introduction of money to the island.

When we arrived work among the islanders was paid for in kind. We paid by chits for a certain amount, to be cashed for provisions at the naval stores. This system was clumsy and we asked for some currency. Eventually



TRISTAN DA CUNHA, a 44-square-miles extinct volcano in the South Atlantic, almost midway between Cape Town and Buenos Aires, is the subject of the story here.

the money arrived—£3,000 in British and South African currency, crated in three packing-cases. I explained its use and the principles of banking through the P.O. Savings Bank to the islanders and stressed the desirability of saving for after the war. They picked up the idea very quickly and we had a most successful savings campaign conducted in simple language.

An island newspaper, The Tristan Times, was first produced in March 1943, selling for two cigarettes, three potatoes, or a halfpenny. It was sold by small boys who carried a sack for the "money." For welfare work on Tristan Lieut.-Cdr. Woolley was later awarded the O.B.E.

Western Desert Memory of the 8th Army Men

In connexion with the passing of the victorious 8th Army, which as an army exists no more (see page 259), Squadron Leader Derek Adkins, R.A.F., recaptures specially for "The War Illustrated" a memory of the khamsin, so well known to those who fought in the Desert.

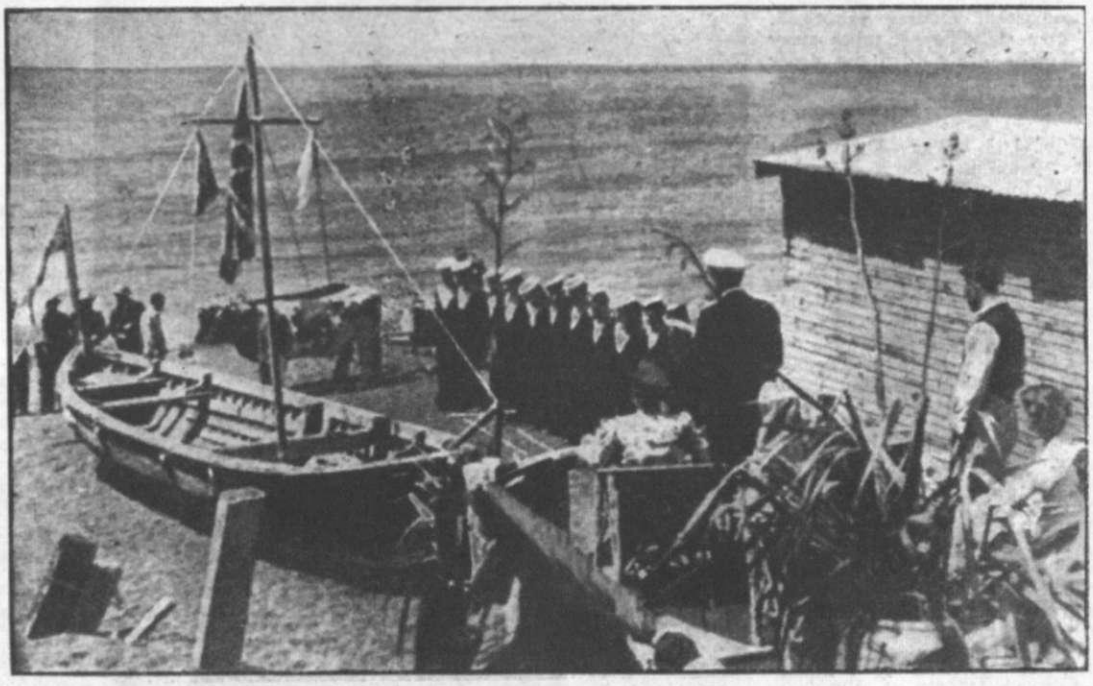
I HAD been to the mess of a fighter wing at Gambut, just south of Tobruk. It was a clear night, and I drove back quickly down the coastal road to my own camp and went to bed. At three in the morning I woke up suddenly. The canvas sides and roof of the tent were lurching about in a helpless and most disconcerting fashion.

As I put on my torch the beam of light shone through the hanging sand-dust like a searchlight. Everything was covered with sand—my pillow, clothes, shoes, table and chairs. The tent poles seemed to sway as the wind billowed against the whole of one side of the tent.

I got out of bed and groped my way outside, hoping forlornly to rearrange the sand-bags that kept down the flaps at the foot of the tent walls. It was just about as much use as trying to stop the sea. The sand seeped in through every crack and vent, and the wind made the double flies of the tent flap together with a noise that was strangely unnerving.

I was alone at the time, so perhaps my isolation accentuated the feeling of utter helplessness. I wondered how long it would be before the guy ropes were uprooted. I started packing some of my more personal belongings, almost feverishly. I went back to bed and left my torch on; the light gave one a sense of companionship, and I could see where the dull flapping noise came from and watch the tent poles as they creaked and groaned. It was only the complete darkness that produced an uncanny feeling of fear and loneliness.

I must have fallen asleep again, for it was murkily light when I woke up. A layer of fine sand rested on everything. It was the same effect as you see in a garden after a heavy fall of snow. It seemed a pity to disturb the smooth pattern of it all. I looked at my pillow. The only clear patch was where my head had lain, but even there the tiny yellow grains were slipping down the creases into the impression that was left. Outside, the air was thick with sand. I lost all sense of direction as I groped my way instinctively across to the mess, with eyes half open and mouth tightly closed. After a few more experiences I became "desert worthy" and accepted sand storms and khamsins as a matter of course.



"ATLANTIC ISLE" commissioning ceremony at which Surgeon Lieut.-Comdr. E. J. S. Woolley, R.N.V.R., and his wife officiated; he is seen reading out the commissioning order. The West African surf-boat (left) was used as a "token" for the island, the ship's company was mustered and the local Home Guard paraded, as told in facing page.
Photo, British Official

OUR DIARY OF THE WAR

August 1, Wednesday *1,333rd day of War against Japan*
Japan.—Record force of 820 Super-Forts bombed five towns on Honshu.
Pacific.—Wake Island bombed and shelled by U.S. planes and battleships.
Austria.—Advanced party of British troops began to take over Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna.

August 2, Thursday *1,334th day*
Germany.—Potsdam Conference ended.
Japan.—U.S. fighter-bombers made attacks in Osaka-Kobe area.
Home Front.—King George met President Truman on Renown at Plymouth.

August 3, Friday *1,335th day*
Pacific.—Announced that Super-Forts had mined all large ports in Japan.
France.—Battleship Strasbourg refloated after scuttling in 1942.

August 4, Saturday *1,336th day*
Japan.—Super-Forts dropped warning leaflets on 12 more cities, making 31 warned of impending air attack.
Pacific.—Announced that General MacArthur's command had been extended to include Ryukyu Islands.

August 5, Sunday *1,337th day*
Japan.—Aircraft of Far East Air Force from Okinawa bombed port of Tarumizu, southern Kyushu.

August 6, Monday *1,338th day*
Japan.—First atomic bomb dropped, on Hiroshima, Honshu, by U.S. aircraft.
Pacific.—Reported that Canadian troopships and aircraft had arrived in Guam area.

August 7, Tuesday *1,339th day*
Japan.—Rail and industrial centres in southern Kyushu again attacked by Allied bombers.
Yugoslavia.—Marshal Tito appealed in National Congress for republican form of government.
General.—Third session of council of UNRRA opened in London.

August 8, Wednesday *1,340th day*
Russia.—Soviet Union declared war on Japan from August 9.
China.—Kukiang island reoccupied by Chinese troops.
Austria.—Zones of occupation of four Allied governments announced.
Yugoslavia.—King Peter charged Tito with dictatorship and withdrew his authority from the Regents.

August 9, Thursday *1,341st day*
Japan.—Second atomic bomb dropped, on port of Nagasaki. Three million leaflets urging Japan to end the war dropped by U.S. aircraft.
Russian Front.—Soviet troops crossed Manchurian frontier, forced River Amur and captured Manchuli.

August 10, Friday *1,342nd day*
Japan.—Tokyo broadcast offer to surrender provided "prerogatives of Emperor" were not prejudiced.

Flash-backs

1940
August 4. *Italian forces invaded British Somaliland.*
August 8. *Battle of Britain began.*

1941
August 14. *Churchill-Roosevelt meeting, and Atlantic Charter, announced by Mr. Attlee.*

1942
August 7. *U.S. troops landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomons.*
August 12. *Mr. Churchill arrived in Moscow on his first visit.*

1943
August 5. *Russians captured Orel. British entered Catania, Sicily.*

1944
August 1. *Poles in Warsaw began fighting Germans openly.*
August 4. *Myitkyina, Burma, fell finally to Allied troops.*
August 9. *U.S. forces reached St. Malo and took Le Mans.*
August 10. *Organized resistance ended on Guam in the Marianas.*
August 12. *Troops of the 8th Army entered Florence.*

Russian Front.—Red Army advanced 100 miles into Manchuria at western end of 1,000-mile front.

August 11, Saturday *1,343rd day*
Japan.—Allied reply to Japanese surrender offer demanded that Emperor should be subject to Allied Supreme Commander in giving effect to terms.
Pacific.—Off Okinawa a "major U.S. warship" was hit by Jap aerial torpedo.
Home Front.—Liner Queen Mary docked at Southampton for first time since 1939.

August 12, Sunday *1,344th day*
Japan.—Allied air forces attacked shipping off Kyushu. Honshu and northern Ryukyus.
Russian Front.—Landing parties of Soviet Pacific Fleet captured ports of Yuki and Rashin in Korea.

August 13, Monday *1,345th day*
Japan.—Carrier aircraft of British and U.S. fleet attacked Tokyo area; U.S. warships bombarded Kurile Island.
Far East.—Mongolian People's Republic (Outer Mongolia) declared war on Japan.
Germany.—French troops took over control of part of Berlin.

August 14, Tuesday *1,346th day*
Japan.—Japanese Government accepted Allied terms of surrender.
Russian Front.—Soviet troops crossed frontier on Sakhalin; Korean port of Seishin captured.
Germany.—Three non-Nazi political organizations sanctioned in British zone.
General.—Chinese-Soviet treaty of alliance signed in Moscow.

With Our Airmen Today

By CAPTAIN
NORMAN MACMILLAN
M.C., A.F.C.

BOMBING reached a new and terrifying point of development on August 6, 1945, by the employment in war for the first time of a bomb utilizing atomic energy as its explosive. One bomb of this kind was dropped on Hiroshima that day at 8.20 a.m. Japanese time (shortly after midnight B.S.T.). This target was doubtless chosen because Hiroshima was a supply depot for the Japanese army, with shipbuilding yards, cotton mills, and war industries as additional factors in the still considerable Japanese war potential (see pages 278 and 280).

The first test firing of this bomb took place in a remote area of New Mexico at 5.30 a.m. on July 16, 1945. Heavy pressure waves knocked down two men outside the control tower, which was 10,000 yards from the explosion. The coloured cloud formed by the explosion boiled to 40,000 feet. The steel tower from which the bomb was suspended (this indicates that it was a blast bomb) disappeared, entirely vaporized. A man standing six miles away and who disregarded the order not to look in the direction of the explosion was blinded.

THE U.S. War Department stated that the first atomic bomb to leave the United States was in the care of Brig.-General Thomas Farrell, who departed with it only nine days before it fell on Hiroshima. Major-General Leslie Groves commanded the atomic bomb project, and co-ordinated final preparations for the launching of this extremely technical mechanism from a tiny Pacific coral island.

The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima by parachute from a Super-Fortress bomber. It exploded before reaching the ground. Its weight was in the order of 400 lb. Reconnaissance photographs showed that this one bomb destroyed 4·1 square miles of Hiroshima's built-up area of 6·9 square miles, or nearly 60 per cent of the city.

Colonel Tibbets, of the U.S. Army A.F., who led the first atomic bomb attack, had trained for this task for some time. With him in the aircraft was Captain William Parsons, U.S. Navy ordnance expert, who said that the great cloud that covered Hiroshima after the explosion consisted of "boiling dust."

THE aircraft was about ten miles away when the bomb exploded, yet it was thrown about violently by the air waves. Below, in the doomed city, the tremendous electrical discharge seared the buildings with flame and disintegrated them by blast. Reconnaissance photographs taken in sunlight after the dust and smoke cleared disclosed only a few shadows indicative of vertical structures left standing within the wrecked area of the city. Over most of that area there were no recognisable features. Tokyo stated that the "impact of the bomb was so terrific that practically all living things—human and animal—were literally seared to death by the tremendous heat and pressure engendered by the blast. All the dead and injured were burned beyond recognition. . . . One cannot distinguish between men and women killed by fire. The corpses are too numerous to be counted."

The dropping of the atomic bomb was additional to the almost continuous pounding of the Japanese main islands with increasingly powerful forces of aircraft carrying ordinary bombs, of both high explosive and incendiary types, from land bases in the Marianas and Okinawa, and repeated strikes by carrier-aircraft of the Third Fleet in which British ships and aircraft formed an important element. On July 24 Admiral Halsey's attacks on remnants of the Japanese fleet at Kure included about 250 British carrier-planes, and about 1,000 American. On July 30 more than a thousand U.S. and British carrier-planes attacked military targets in the Tokyo-Nogoya areas; their original targets—airfields—were blotted out by fog, so they were switched to targets of opportunity. The Japanese estimate for that day was that 1,600 aircraft had attacked the Japanese main islands up to 6 p.m.

FIRST BRITISH SEAFIRE OVER JAPAN, this aircraft (top) operated from a British Pacific Fleet carrier. Details of the Seafire XV, fastest naval interceptor fighter built in Britain, were released on August 10, 1945. Speed is approximately 400 m.p.h.; span, 36 feet 10 inches; length 31 feet 10 inches; armament two 20 mm. cannon, four ·303 machine guns, and one 500 lb. bomb. It is powered with one 1,890 h.p. Rolls-Royce Griffon VI engine. *Photo, Associated Press*

MORE Than 1,000 Planes on a Two-Day Strike at Honshu

At the end of July it was announced that at least 1,230 Japanese ships and 1,257 aircraft had been destroyed or damaged during the preceding 22 days by the Third Fleet. On August 9 and 10 the same Fleet sent more than a thousand planes on a two-day strike against targets in Northern Honshu. The British aircraft struck at targets around Sendai Bay area, the naval base 180 miles north-east of Tokyo, attacking power stations and dockyards, hangars, barracks, workshops, dispersed aircraft, airfields, shipping, gliders and tugs. Several enemy aircraft attacked the Fleet as it withdrew, without doing damage, and a small force of enemy torpedo planes was completely wiped out.

ON July 26 a proclamation signed by President Truman and Mr. Churchill at Potsdam was delivered in the form of an ultimatum to the Japs, after its approval by Chiang Kai-shek by radio. Clause 8 read: "The terms of the Cairo declaration shall be carried out and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as we shall determine." Failure to accept this ultimatum as a signal to surrender was to be followed by a war of annihilation upon Japan. The Japanese elder statesmen rejected the warning.

ON July 27, Super-Fortresses of the 20th A.F. dropped leaflets warning people to flee from *Aomori*, Nishinomiya, *Ogaki*, *Ichinomiya*, Nagaoka, Koriyama, *Ujiyamada*, *Tsu*, Kurume, *Uwajima*, and Hakodate. Two days later the six cities in italics and the Shimotsu oil refinery were bombed with more than 3,500 tons of bombs from 550-600 Super-Fortresses. Five were left in ashes and the sixth badly burned. In the night of July 31, twelve Japanese cities were similarly warned: *Mito*, *Hachioji*, Mayebashi, *Toyama*, *Nagaoka*, Nishinomiua - Mikage, Maizaru, Otsu, Fukuyama, Navona, Kurume, Hakodate. The four cities in italics were among the targets of the record force of 800 bombers which dropped the record load of 6,000 tons during the first day of August.

On August 5, twelve cities were again warned: Miyakonojo, Saga, Yawata, Hachinoje, Akita, Fukushima, Urawa, Tottori, Iwakuni, Takayama, Otaru, Imbari, and next day 580 Super-Forts bombed Mayebashi, Nishonomiya, Ube, and Saga. On August 7, Toyokawa naval base received 880 tons from 125 Super-Forts, and next day Yawata (Japan's Sheffield) was set ablaze with 1,500 tons of H.E. from about 225 Super-Forts.

BY then the Japanese armies in China and Manchuria were virtually isolated from the home islands. Japan's seaborne commerce was paralysed by the mine-laying of Super-Forts, which since March 27 had sunk or damaged more than half of Japan's shipping. Generals MacArthur and Spaatz were drafting plans for 7,000-ton raids against Japan. There were almost daily strikes from medium and heavy bombers and fighters from Okinawa. On August 8, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan as from midnight that night. Next day her bombers swept out from bases to smash at Manchuli, Harbin, Changchun, Kirin, and the ports of Seishin and Rashin. Five hundred tons of demolition bombs fell on Amagasaki, chief refinery for aviation petrol. On August 9, a second atomic bomb fell—on Nagasaki.

No nation could withstand such strokes, and on the following day President Truman announced that Japan was in communication with the U.S.A., U.K., U.S.S.R. and China with a surrender offer. The bomber had beaten Japan without an invasion.

Flying Boat Base for War on Japs and Locusts

A 2,400 H.P. CATALINA IS HAULED UP THE SLIPWAY for a maintenance check at Korangi Creek, Karachi, one of India's largest R.A.F. flying boat bases (1). From there (2) Catalinas and Sunderlands arriving from the United Kingdom are " routed " on to their forward destinations. Besides normal operational duties and the ferrying of casualties, Catalinas carry out anti-locust patrols, checking these pests in their Baluchistan breeding-grounds. Sunderlands have destroyed much enemy coastal shipping in the Gulf of Siam. Air Vice Marshal C. E. N. Guest, C.B.E. (in circle) commands R.A.F. Transport Command Group operating in India and Burma.

Photos, British Official

Editor's Postscript

SOME time ago (see page 158) I was urging my readers never to forget that the tank was a British invention. Since then Lieut.-Gen. Sir Giffard Le Q. Martel, who knows as much about tanks as any man living (he was the first commander of the Royal Armoured Corps) has reminded me that the British inventors beat the French only by a short head. Each of the two Allies had been working in secret along the same lines. Early in 1916 there was a joint demonstration at which the secrets were exchanged, the existing new weapons of each country being paraded before the eyes of the other. In armour and armament there was little to choose. The all-important difference was that the British looked upon their tanks primarily as a means of breaking out of the trench system, and had therefore evolved that essential feature of tank construction, the caterpillar track ; whereas the French were still gambling on the power of artillery to destroy the stalemate of the trenches. Their "assault cars," lighter and speedier than the tanks, were designed only for use *after* a breakthrough, as a sort of bullet-proof cavalry. This was the rôle assigned in the closing stages of the Second Great War to our own cruiser tanks, which owed much of their lightness and mobility to that French assault-car conception of 1916.

MOTORISTS enjoying their basic petrol ration will have noticed how nearly all our signposts are back again. Yet the other day I passed a village 1914-18 war memorial still worded : "To the memory of the men of——", the blank being an ugly strip of matchboard tacked across the name of the village. There seems little excuse for such dilatoriness. Anyway, I have often wondered sceptically just how far any German parachutists would have been hindered by the extensive anonymity that cloaked the British countryside. One supposes they would have had excellent maps and a knowledge of how to use them. Still, the principle that even if we were not able to hinder them we need not go out of our way to help them was sound enough ; and the thoroughness with which the idea was carried out was justified at the time as a stimulant to morale. Incidentally, how many remember that the man responsible for getting the signposts removed was Lord Reith, who was Minister of Transport for a brief period in 1940 ? It was an appropriate task for one who had been already renowned in his B.B.C. days for an insistent belief in the virtues of anonymity.

CHRONICLERS of the Second Great War, like their predecessors in other wars, must be heartily sick of History's recurring capacity for repeating itself. One of the least known and most romantic of these historical repetitions is disclosed by Charles Graves in his lively two-shilling pamphlet, Drive for Freedom, which Hodder and Stoughton have sent me. It concerns the Battle of Britain and a decision taken some years *before* the War by a firm of British motor manufacturers to build up a real British watch industry—and so perfect our Hurricanes and Spitfires ! The story switches back to the 18th century when London craftsmen were pre-eminent in watch-making. (There were no fewer than 3,000 watchmakers in Clerkenwell alone.) Their mutual jealousies, alas ! enabled an enterprising Swiss named Ingold to acquire their secrets and return with them to his native country, where he established an industry which soon completely eclipsed that of the Londoners. A century later—in the 1930's—three Swiss professors and twenty-five skilled operatives were imported to revive the ancient English industry. As Mr. Graves points out, these twenty-eight men had, perhaps, as much to do with the defeat of the Luftwaffe as anyone in Great Britain—with the exception of the actual fighter pilots concerned. For by their assistance Britain was able for the first time to make her own all-British lever escapement, the nerve-centre of a watch, which hitherto had been imported from Switzerland. Without this device it is impossible to make any of the time-fuse mechanism necessary for the caps of shells and sea-mines, quite apart from any clock or watch-equipment so essential to high-precision flying.

ONLY the incurably sentimental among our diners-out, I imagine, will regret the proposal of the Réunion des Gastronomes (an influential body in the catering trade) to abolish the traditional attire of the British waiter. Instead of the soup-stained dickey and shiny tails, after the cut of the late Billy Bennett, the waiter of tomorrow is to wear "washable white jackets, with interchangeable shoulder-straps or epaulets"—as worn by all waiters in Hollywood films as well as by most in smart resorts abroad before the war. The old-fashioned waiters' clothes provided much shaggy humour for music-hall comedians, and the publishers of picture-postcards, yet I doubt if one diner out in a thousand ever reflected, between courses, that this highly soilable *tenue de soir*, with its almost daily change of cuffs, dickey and collar—often made of paper, it's true—had to be provided and maintained by the waiter himself, often at considerable expense. Any new garb that combines cleanliness and smartness of appearance with cheapness and ease in laundering will be a blessing all round. I make only one reservation : that in future revivals of G.B.S.'s still delightful play You Never Can Tell, the philosopher-waiter continues to dress in his old and familiar pea-souper. Shavian philosophy and washable white jackets, I somehow feel, would not go hand-in-hand.

Air Chief Marshal Sir W. SHOLTO DOUGLAS, K.C.B., M.C., D.F.C., appointed Commander-in-Chief British Air Forces of Occupation in Germany as from July 15, 1945. He is also responsible for disarming the Luftwaffe in Denmark, Belgium and Holland.
Photo, British Official

MANY a motor-bus has travelled far from its accustomed beat in the last few years. It began with the blitz, and the hundreds of provincial buses that were rushed up to help London through the bad autumn of 1940. Do you remember when you could ride down the Strand on a bright blue bus from Hull and make the return trip on a dark blue one from Bradford or Birmingham, or possibly a muddy orange one from Glasgow ? Later on, the proud vermilion of London Transport was to be seen in the streets of Coventry and similarly stricken towns. Altogether 283 London buses were lent to the provinces. And now there are men serving in the Army of Occupation, coming from Maidstone, Northampton, and other districts, who rub their eyes at the strange but gratifying sight of their home town buses scudding across Germany, in the process of transporting those tragic thousands officially known as Displaced Persons. Of course, buses went far afield on war work between 1914 and 1918, too. A battalion shifting from one part of France to another would often find a fleet of them waiting at the railhead ; and though the buses were all disguised in a uniform of drab grey, Londoners at least could never mistake the peculiar topheavy tilt of the old B-type vehicles, and always hailed them as old friends. The oddest encounter of this kind, however, concerns a steam roller. It happened out in Iraq, a year or so ago. A lad in the Royal Engineers, who had formerly worked in the highways department of the local council office at Barnes, saw the great lumbering thing at work on a new military road. Something about the cut of its jib struck a familiar chord, and he went up for a closer look. Sure enough, he found the inscription "Barnes Borough Council" He said he could have hugged it !

"AS a potential agent of world peace broadcasting stands supreme." I quote from a recent newspaper article. The words strike a familiar chord. Was not the original motto of our B.B.C. the pseudo-Scriptural "Nation shall speak peace unto nation" ? It was a motto well suited to the somewhat woolly idealism of B.B.C. aspirations at that period. The actual words are to be found nowhere in the Bible, the nearest approach being in Isaiah ii, 4: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation." However, soon after the emergence of Hitler this motto was dropped, at whose instigation I know not, in exchange for the innocuous "Quaecunque," meaning (roughly) "Whatsoever things." The B.B.C.'s three journals were instructed at the time to make no comment on the change. In the event, the B.B.C. proved far more successful as an agent of war than ever it had promised to be of peace. A series of circumstances totally unexpected by the B.B.C. even after the war had begun enabled it to become a rallying-point, almost the only one, for the scattered and trampled forces of freedom in Europe. You and I may not have thought much of the Home Service and Forces programmes at times ; but hundreds of thousands of men and women in the occupied countries of Europe will always remember the voice of the B.B.C. gratefully as the one perpetually glowing spark in a world of darkness, a stimulus to resistance, and a constant assurance of final victory.

In Britain Now: Members of the New Cabinet

HERBERT MORRISON
Lord President of the Council

ERNEST BEVIN
Foreign Secretary

ARTHUR GREENWOOD
Lord Privy Seal

HUGH DALTON
Chancellor of the Exchequer

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS
President of Board of Trade

A. V. ALEXANDER
First Lord of Admiralty

LORD JOWITT
Lord Chancellor

THE new Prime Minister, Mr. Clement R. Attlee (portrait in page 254), completed the formation of his Cabinet by August 3, 1945, in readiness for the opening of Parliament twelve days later. Mr. Churchill assumed leadership of the Opposition.

The Cabinet numbers 20, as opposed to 16 in Mr. Churchill's Government. Members' average age is 61, compared with 56 for the late Cabinet. Average age of M.P.s was lowered substantially by the election; that of Labour members dropped, it is calculated, from 56 to 43, while that of Conservative members is given as 47. See also page 255.

J. CHUTER EDE
Home Secretary

VISCOUNT ADDISON
Dominions Secretary

LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE
Sec. of State for India

G. H. HALL
Colonial Secretary

J. J. LAWSON
Minister of War

VISCOUNT STANSGATE
Minister for Air

JOSEPH WESTWOOD
Secretary for Scotland

GEORGE A. ISAACS
Minister of Labour

EMANUEL SHINWELL
Minister of Fuel

ELLEN WILKINSON
Minister of Education

ANEURIN BEVAN
Minister of Health

TOM WILLIAMS
Minister of Agriculture

Brussels Says 'Thank You!' to the Guards

TROOPS OF THE GUARDS ARMOURED DIVISION—seen marching along the Rue de la Régence towards the Palais de Justice—were honoured by Brussels on July 28, 1945, when the Burgomaster presented them with plaques and standards recording the citizens' gratitude for their liberation eleven months previously. (On September 3, 1944, advanced elements of the Division entered the Belgian capital after a 206-mile thrust in six days; see page 313, Vol. 8.) Collected from all over Germany and headed by Maj.-Gen. Sir Allan Adair, G.O.C. the Guards Division, 3,500 men took part in the ceremony. Next day our troops presented Brussels' famous "Mannikin" statue with a Guards' uniform—made to measure. *Photo, G.P.U.*

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